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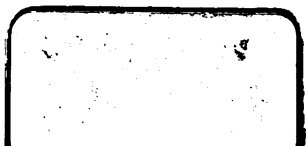
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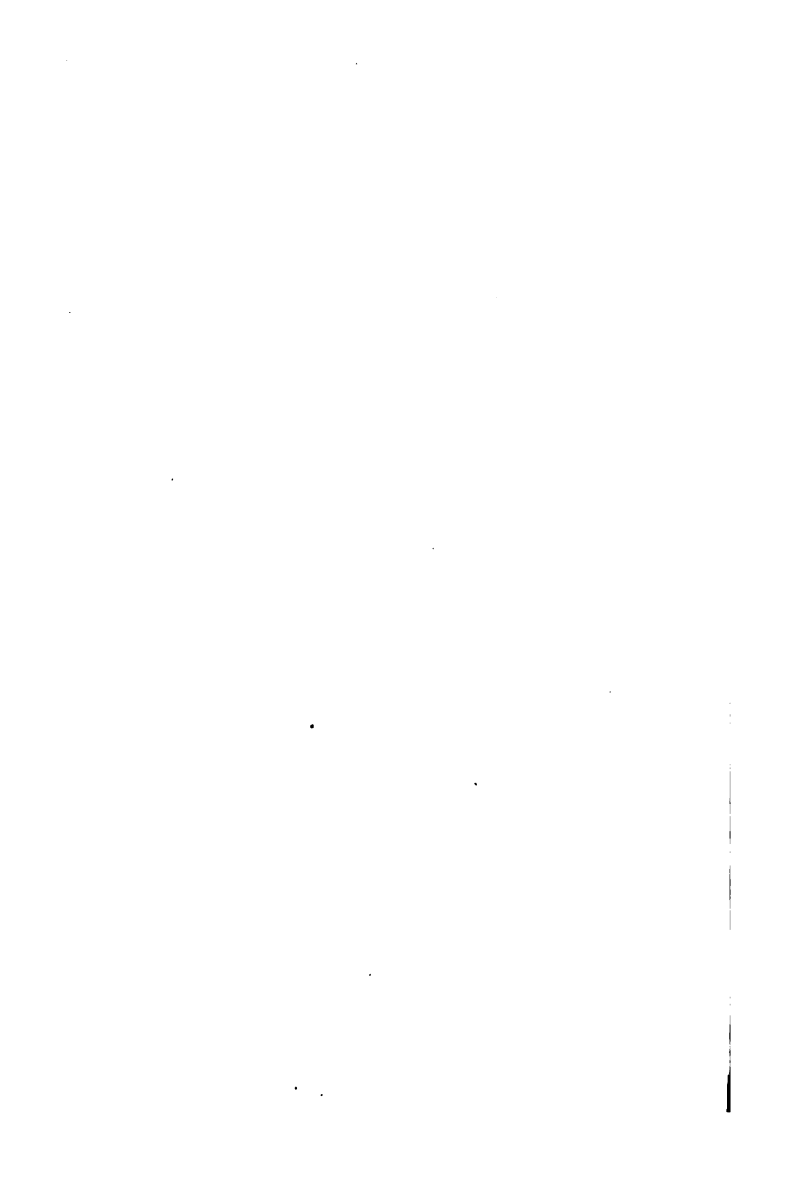
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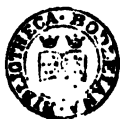
WITH THE NAMES OF PLACES ACCENTED,
AND THEIR PRONUNCIATION ADDED.

BY
GEORGE MEABY, B.A., LL.D.,
HEAD MASTER OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, CARTMEL; AND
AUTHOR OF "FIRST LESSONS IN GRAMMAR."

Second Edition.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS book is, as it professes to be, a book for those pupils whose inclination or whose time allotted for learning does not permit of more than an acquaintance with the broad features or elementary parts of Geography.

The almost universal defect of school books is that their writers are more anxious to display their own acquirements than to produce only what their experience may have taught them young pupils may reasonably be expected to learn.

It is hoped that this little book will be found to contain much information in a concise and easy style—quite as much as young pupils generally gather by great labour from larger works, and which, if thoroughly mastered, by a constant reference to a map or atlas, will enable the learner to pass muster at any ordinary examination on the subject.

In this edition, besides an entire revision, a chapter has been added on the Exports and Imports, Products and Manufactures, of Great

Britain, which it is believed will be found both interesting and useful, the figures being so far as possible those of the past year (1859). The proper names have all been accented, and, when thought to be necessary, the pronunciation introduced immediately after, instead of being, as in the first edition, placed in a vocabulary at the end.

With these additions and alterations the book is again submitted to the notice of teachers.

Grammar School, Cartmel,

1860.

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CATECHISM OF GEOGRAPHY.

INTRODUCTION.

Question. What is meant by Geography ?

Answer. A description of the Earth and its inhabitants.

Q. What is the Earth ?

A. The Earth on which we live is a planet, or moving body, and forms part of what is called the Solar System.

Q. What is comprehended in the Solar System ?

A. The Sun and all the other heavenly bodies which move about it, or are attracted by it.

Q. Into what classes are these bodies divided ?

A. Planets are said to be either primary or secondary : primary planets being those which move round the sun as their centre of attraction ; and secondary planets being those which move round some primary planet as a centre.

Q. Give the primary planets in their order ?

A. Mercury, Venus, the Earth, Mars, the Asteroids, Jupiter, Saturn, U'ranus, and Neptune.

Q. How does the Earth move ?

¹ From the Greek words *ge*, the earth, and *graphē*, a writing or description. Geography is divided into Mathematical, Physical or Descriptive, and Political. Mathematical Geography treats of the laws which regulate the motions and distances of our earth ; physical geography treats of its natural features and its products ; political geography, of its division into nations and their forms of government.

A. It has two principal motions.—One, which is called its annual motion, (from *annus* which means a year) is its motion round the Sun as a centre at a mean distance of 95 millions of miles.

Q. Why do you say at a mean distance ?

A. Because the Earth does not move in an exact circle. In Winter it is nearer the Sun by about a million of miles.¹

Q. You said that the Earth had two motions, what is the other ?

A. It is its motion round its axis, which it performs once in little less than twenty-four hours, and is called its diurnal motion (from *diurnus*, which signifies daily).

Q. What do you mean by the axis of the Earth ?

A. An imaginary line round which it is supposed to turn.

Q. In what direction does it turn ?

A. From West to East, and produces the apparent motion of the Sun from east to west.

Q. Do you know any other effect of the Earth's motion round its axis ?

A. Yes : the succession of day and night ; for the Earth being globular, one half only can receive the Sun's rays at the same time.

Q. How are the Seasons produced ?

A. By the manner in which the Earth revolves about the Sun, having its axis inclined $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees.

Q. What are the extremities of the Earth's axis called ?

A. They are called Poles—that towards the north is called the Arctic, that towards the south the Antarctic.²

¹ The fact of its being colder in Winter, though the Earth is then nearest the Sun, is owing to the Sun's rays falling more obliquely on our portion of the Globe at this season of the year.

² From *Arctos*, a Greek word, which signifies the Bear ; the constellation so called being in the North. Antarctic means opposite to the Arctic.

Q. What is the form of the Earth ?

A. It is round except at the Poles, where it is a little flattened.

Q. Can you give any proof of the rotundity of the Earth ?

A. When a ship goes out to sea we first lose sight of the body, then the rigging, and lastly the top of the mast.—The Earth also reflects a circular shadow, at the time of an eclipse, on the face of the moon. Another proof is, that several celebrated voyagers (Drake, Anson, &c.) have, by sailing continually in one direction, arrived at the same place from which they set out.

Q. What is meant by the diameter of the Earth ?

A. The diameter of the Earth or any round body is a supposed line passing through the centre and terminated by two opposite points of the surface.

Q. What is the length of a line drawn thus through the Earth ?

A. The mean diameter of the earth is 7,916 miles. The polar diameter is about 26 miles less than the equatorial.¹

Q. What is the circumference ?

A. The circumference of the earth is a line drawn round it so as to divide it into two equal parts, or halves, called hemispheres, from Greek words signifying half globe.

Q. What is the length of this line ?

A. About 24,860 miles ; the circumference of the equator is about 40 miles greater than that which is made to pass through the Poles.

Q. How is distance measured on the globe ?

A. By degrees, minutes, and seconds, each degree is the 360th part of the circumference, and is equal to 69½ English miles ;—a minute is the 60th part of a degree ;—a second is the 60th part of a minute.

Q. What is the Equator ?

¹ Polar diameter 7,900. Equatorial diameter 7,926.

A. The Equator is a great circle drawn round the earth at an equal distance from the Poles.

Q. What do you understand by the Tropics ?

A. The Tropics are two small circles drawn at a distance of $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees on each side of the Equator.¹

Q. Where are the polar circles ?

A. They are drawn parallel to the Equator, $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees from the Poles.

Q. How are the intermediate spaces designated ?

A. The spaces between the Poles and the Arctic and Antarctic circles are called Frigid Zones ; those between these circles and the Tropics are called Temperate Zones ; that between the Tropics the Torrid Zone.

Q. What is Latitude ?

A. Latitude is distance measured from the Equator, northward or southward.

Q. What is Longitude ?

A. Longitude is distance from any given place, eastward or westward.

Q. How is Latitude notified on a representation of the Earth ?

A. Latitude is marked by figures, and lines drawn at certain distances (generally of 10 or 15 degrees) from the Equator towards the North or South Poles, called parallels of Latitude.

Q. How is Longitude marked ?

A. Longitude is expressed on the Equator by figures, and lines drawn round the globe, passing through the Poles and crossing the Equator, called parallels of Longitude.²

Q. How are Latitude and Longitude marked on maps of a *part* of the Earth ?

¹ The Tropics are so called from "*trepo*," to turn ; because when the sun reaches these points in the ecliptic, it appears to turn towards the Equator again.

² Latitude cannot exceed 90 degrees, nor longitude be more than 180 degrees. Latitude can be reckoned from one place only, viz., the Equator. Longitude is reckoned from the capital or the principal observatory of a country. Our reckonings are made from the meridian of Greenwich, that being the place of the Royal Observatory.

A. Latitude may then be expressed on the sides, and Longitude along the top and bottom.

Q. What are the Cardinal Points ?

A. The Cardinal Points, which mean chief points, are East, West, North, South ; and may be found by facing the sun at twelve o'clock at noon, which is then due south, behind is the north, on the left hand the east, and on the right hand the west.

EXTENT AND NATURAL DIVISIONS OF THE EARTH.

Q. What is the extent of the Earth's surface ?

A. The surface of the Earth is about 196 millions of square miles.

Q. What is the comparative extent of the land and water ?

A. The extent of the land is less than one-third that of the water.

Q. What are the great divisions of the land ?

A. Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, (called Quarters of the Globe; Australasia and Polynesia, comprehending the numerous Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Q. What is a Continent ?

A. A Continent is a vast extent of land, comprising many countries or political divisions, not naturally separated from each other.

Q. How many Continents are there ?

A. Strictly speaking there are but two,—the Eastern Continent, which comprehends Europe, Asia, and Africa, or the Old World ; and the Western Continent, which comprehends North and South America, or the New World.¹

¹ Nevertheless we may say the Continent of Europe, the Continent of Africa, &c.

Q. What are the names peculiar to the smaller portions of the land ?

A. Islands, Peninsulas, Isthmuses, Promontories, and Capes.

Q. What is an Island ;

A. An Island is a portion of land quite surrounded by water.

Q. What is a Peninsula ?

A. A Peninsula (almost an Island) is an extent of land almost surrounded by water.

Q. What do you mean by an Isthmus ?

A. An Isthmus is a neck of land which unites one portion of land to another.

Q. What do you understand by a Promontory ?

A. A Promontory is a tract of land stretching itself far into the sea, and terminating in a point which is called a Cape.

Q. What is an Archipelago ? (Ark-e-pel-a-go).

A. Archipelago means chief sea—so called because of the importance any cluster of islands gives to a portion of the ocean. A cluster of less important islands is called a Group.¹

Q. What is a Mountain ?

A. A Mountain is a portion of land which rises much above the surrounding country.

Q. You have, I dare say, heard of Volcanoes, what are they ?

A. A Volcano is a mountain which emits fire and other substances. Their eruptions have sometimes buried cities.

Q. What are the divisions of the water ?

A. The water on the surface of the Globe is by Geographers divided into Oceans, Seas, Lakes, Bays or Gulfs, Straits and Rivers.

Q. What is to be understood by the term Ocean ?

A. The vast body of salt water, which is not near the land.

¹ Cape, Headland, and Nase, or Nose, have all a like application.

Q. Can you describe the several situations of the different Oceans ?

A. That collection which flows between the Continent of Europe and Africa on the *east* and America on the *west*, is called the Atlantic, and is divided into North and South ; that between Asia on the *west* and America on the *east*, is called the Pacific ; there are also the Indian Ocean, south of India ; the Arctic Ocean, about the North Pole ; and the Antarctic, about the South Pole.

Q. What is a Sea ?

A. A Sea is the name by which that portion of the Ocean which is immediately opposite the land is designated.

Q. What is a Lake ?

A. A Lake is a collection of water entirely surrounded by land ; when very large it is sometimes, though improperly, called a Sea ; as, the Caspian Sea, and the Sea of Sodom, which are only large Lakes.

Q. What is a Strait ?

A. A narrow passage of water which unites one Ocean or Sea with another ; as the Straits of Gibraltar which unite the Mediterranean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean.

Q. What is a Bay or Gulf ?

A. A part of the sea nearly enclosed by land is called a Bay if it has a wide entrance, and a Gulf if its entrance is somewhat narrow.

Q. What is a River ?

A. A River is a stream of water which rises in the land and by a constant declivity runs into the sea.

What is meant by the Source and Mouth of a river ?

A. The place where a river springs or begins to flow is called its Rise or Source. The place where it empties itself and mingles with the Sea is called its Mouth.

Q. Explain the expressions "right bank" and "left bank" of a river?

A. By right or left bank is meant the right or left in the direction of the current.

INHABITANTS.

Q. What is the estimated population of the whole World?

A. Nearly 1,300 millions.¹

Q. Is the whole human race of one colour, feature, and shape?

A. No: variety of climate, food, modes of life, &c., all tend to produce diversity in the outward appearance of the human race.

Q. How are they divided by Naturalists?

A. They are divided into the White Race; the Copper-coloured Race; the Polar Race; the Tartar Race; and the Negro Race.

Q. What people are included in the White Race?

A. It comprises the inhabitants of Europe, the Circassians (the handsomest people in the world), the Persians and Arabians of Asia, and the Moors, who inhabit the North of Africa.

Q. What people are included in the Copper-coloured or Red Race?

A. All the original Inhabitants of America (with the exception of the Es'quimaux) are of a red or copper colour, with high cheek bones, and small eyes.

Q. Describe the Polar Race?

A. The Polar Race, which includes Laplanders, Samoyades, Ostiaks, Kam'tschatdales, Greenlanders, and Es'quimaux (Es-ke-mo), is very short, seldom more than five feet, of dark-brown complexion, with large heads and short flat noses.

¹ Of these it is considered that 335 millions are Christians; five millions Jews; 160 millions Mahometans; and 800 millions idolaters and heathen of various descriptions.

Q. Describe the Tartar Race ?

A. The Tartar Race comprises the inhabitants of the whole of Central Asia, China, and Japan. They are of a yellowish colour, and have flat and wrinkled faces, high cheek bones and small eyes.

Q. What countries are inhabited by the Negro Race ?

A. The Negro or Black Race includes the whole of the inhabitants of Africa, excepting the Northern parts. They have a flat nose, thick lips, and frizzled hair.—Of this class, the natives of Guinea are the ugliest, those of Congo and Mozambique (Mo-zam-beek) the handsomest.

Q. Who are the tallest people in the World ?

A. The Patago'nians, who inhabit the southern extremity of America, said to be for the most part $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high.¹

Q. Who are the shortest ?

A. The inhabitants of the North Frigid Zone, i. e. Laplanders, Icelanders, and Es'quimaux.

EUROPE.

Q. In what hemisphere is Europe ?

A. Europe, the smallest but most populous quarter

¹ The accounts concerning the stature of this people are very conflicting. Commodore Byron says—"One of them, who afterwards appeared to be Chief, came towards me, he was of gigantic stature, and seemed to realise the tales of monsters in a human shape—round one eye was a large circle of white, a circle of black surrounded the other, and the rest of his body was streaked with paint of different colours. I did not measure him; but, if I may judge of him by the proportion of his stature to my own, it could not be less than *seven feet*." A midshipman in the Commodore's ship published an account, which was read before the Royal Society in April, 1767, wherein he says—"They are of a copper-colour, with long black hair, and some of them are certainly *nine feet*, if they do not exceed it. There was hardly a man there less than eight feet!" Another account, published by Captains King and Fitzroy, 1839, says—"It is true that of the number we saw, none measured more than six feet two inches." It is probable that the present is a diminished race—the Fuegians, their neighbours, being short and deformed.

of the World, is situated in the North-western part of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Q. What are the extent and population of Europe ?

A. Europe, with its Isles, contains nearly 4 millions square miles, and 272 millions of inhabitants—its greatest length being 3,400 miles, and its greatest breadth 2,400 miles.

Q. What are the boundaries of Europe ?

A. It is bounded on the North by the Arctic Ocean, on the West by the Atlantic Ocean, on the South by the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea, and on the East by the U'ral Mountains, which separate it from Asia.

Q. What is the general face of Europe ?

A. Nearly two-thirds of the surface of Europe consist of an immense plain ; the remainder is partly valley and partly hilly. The plain occupies the central parts, from the English Channel to the Uralian Mountains, and the hilly and mountainous countries extend along the Southern and North-western shores.¹

Q. What are the chief mountains of Europe ?

A. The Alps, the Apennines, Pyrenees, Balkan (Bol-kan), Carpath'ian, U'ral, and Dof'rine chains.

Q. Where are the Alps ?

A. The Alps are a chain of very high mountains which separate Italy from Switzerland, Germany, and France.

Q. What is the extent of this chain ?

A. The Alps extend from the banks of the Rhone to about 18 degrees East longitude.

Q. What are some of the highest of this range ?

A. The highest summits are Mount Blanc² (Blong) in Switzerland, 15,740 feet above the level of the sea ; Mount Rosa, 15,170 feet.

¹ An elevated region down whose slopes rivers are formed is called a *Watershed*.

² Blanc, *white*, so-called because always covered with snow.

Q. Where are the Ap'ennines?

A. The Ap'ennines are a chain which runs through the whole peninsula of Italy, from North to South.—The greatest elevation of this chain is 11,270 feet.

Q. Where are the Pyreneés?

A. The Pyreneés separate France from Spain, running across the Continent from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean Sea.

Q. What is the highest summit of this mountain chain?

A. Maladet'ta, 11,500 feet; and several others exceed 10,000 feet.

Q. In what part of Europe is the Bal'kan (Balkan) chain?

A. The Bal'kan Mountains branch off from the Alps, running through Turkey to the shores of the Black Sea, a length of about 600 miles. The greatest elevation is about 9,000 feet.

Q. What is the situation of the Carpath'ian Mountains?

A. The Carpath'ian Mountains are part of another system which encloses the kingdom of Bohe'mia, taking a South-eastern direction to the banks of the Danube—a length of about 800 miles.

Q. Do you know the height of these Mountains?

A. Yes; there are several peaks which exceed 8,000 feet.

Q. Where are the U'ral Mountains?

A. The U'ral Mountains separate the Eastern part of Europe from Asia.

Q. There is yet another chain to be noticed?

A. Yes; the Dof'rine, or Do'frefield Mountains, which separate Norway from Sweden¹—the greatest height is 8,400 feet.

¹ Norway and Sweden form what is called the Scandinav'ian peninsula.

Q. Are there any Volcanic Mountains in Europe ?

A. There are Mount Etna, in Sicily, 10,940 feet high ; Mount Vesu'vius, in Italy, 3,935 feet ; Mount Hecla, in Iceland, 5,010 feet.¹

LAKES AND RIVERS.

Q. Which is the largest Lake in Europe ?

A. Lake Lado'ga, in Russia, which is united to the Gulf of Finland by the River Neva, and covers an area of 7,000 square miles.

Q. Do you know the situation and extent of Lake One'ga ?

A. Lake One'ga is eastward of Lado'ga, with which it is joined by the River Olonit'z, and in extent is 3,870 square miles.

Q. Mention the next in extent ?

A. Lake Wen'er, 1,700 square miles ; and Wet'er, 610 square miles, both in Sweden.

Q. Which are some of the largest Lakes in Switzerland.

A. Lake Constance, which has a surface of 300 square miles, and receives above fifty larger and smaller streams ; Lake Gene'va in a district of the same name, 400 square miles ; and Lake Neu'-chatel (Noo-shat-el), though smaller than those just mentioned, is very beautiful, being in its greatest length 25 miles, and about five in its greatest breadth.

Q. Where is Lake Como ?

A. Lake Como is the finest of the Italian lakes, long, narrow, and winding, and both its banks are beautifully studded with villas or residences of wealthy families.

Q. Name some other lakes of Italy ?

¹ The Lip'ari islands, north of Sicily ; the Azo'res, off Portugal ; and Spitzbergen, in the Arctic Ocean, all contain volcanoes.

A. Garda and Maggióre¹ (Mad-je-o-ray) are the largest of the Italian lakes. Lake Garda covers an area of 220 square miles, and Maggióre is forty miles long.—Its breadth varies from three to eight miles.

Q. Which are the largest Rivers of Europe ?

A. The Vol'ga, the Dan'ube, the Dniéper (Nee-per), the Dniéster (Nee-ster), the Don, the Rhine, the O'der, the Vis'tula, the Elbe, the Rhone, and the Po.

Q. Where is the source of the Volga ?

A. The Vol'ga or Wol'ga, the largest of the European rivers, rises in the North of Russia, and, after a gentle course of more than 2000 miles, falls into the Caspian Sea.

Q. Tell me the course and length of the Dan'ube.

A. The Dan'ube has a course of nearly 2,000 miles, rises in the Black Forest, about 24 miles from the banks of the Rhine, in the south-western part of Germany, runs in an eastern direction through Bavaria and Aus'tria (Os'tre-a), takes a southern direction through Hun'gary, and again flows east through Turkey to the Black Sea.

Q. Does it not receive numerous other streams in its course ?

A. Yes ; the Thiess (Thees) and the Pruth running from the Carpath'ian Mountains ; and the Inn, the Drave, and the Save, which rise in the Alps, are some of the most important.

Q. Where does the Dnie'per (Nee-per) rise ?

A. The Dnie'per rises not far from the source of the Volga, in the government of Smolen'sk. It takes first a south-eastern course, afterwards a south-western to the Black Sea. Its length is about 1,000 miles.

Q. Where does the Dnie'ster (Nee-ster) rise ?

A. The Dnie'ster rises in a Lake on the Car-

¹ Maggióre means the *greater*. Zu'rich and Lucerne are lakes also of some attractions.

path'ian Mountains, in the Austrian kingdom of Galic'ia. It has a south-eastern course of 700 miles to the Black Sea. It has also several considerable whirlpools.

Q. What is the history of the Don ?

A. The Don or Tan'aia, rises in a small lake in the Russian government of Tuld, and discharges its waters by three branches into the Sea of Azov.

Q. Where is the source of the Rhine ?

A. The Rhine runs from the Alps in Switzerland to the North Sea, through Switzerland, Germany, East Prussia, and Holland. The length of it is about 800 miles.

Q. Where does the Oder rise ?

A. The Oder rises in Bohe'mia, and runs through Germany to the North Sea, a course of 770 miles.

Q. Where does the Vistula rise ?

A. The Vistula rises among the Carpathian Mountains, runs through Poland and West Prussia, into the Baltic Sea, a course of 650 miles.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF EUROPE.

Q. What are the political divisions of Europe ?

A. The political divisions of Europe are Lapland ; Norway and Sweden ; European Russia ; Prussia ; Denmark ; Holland and Belgium, or the Netherlands ; Great Britain ; France ; Spain ; Portugal ; Switzerland ; Italy ; Germany ; Austria ; Turkey ; and Greece.

Q. In what part of Europe is Lapland ?

A. Lapland is the most northern country of Europe, and is for three-fourths of the year covered with snow.

Q. What are the divisions of the country ?

A. It is divided into Swedish Lapland, Finlandish Lapland, and Russian Lapland.

Q. What parts do these people respectively inhabit ?

A. The original inhabitants have been driven by foreign settlers into the most sterile part of the country, beyond the polar circles. The emigrant Swedes, Fins, and Russians, occupy those parts nearest their own country.

Q. What are the habits of these people ?

A. The Laplanders wander about with their herds of rein-deer (which consist of 500 or 1000, and afford them both food and clothing,) in quest of the best pastures.

Q. Which are the most productive parts of Lapland ?

A. Swedish Lapland, and that part which belongs to Finland.

Q. Are not the inhabitants for a considerable period deprived of the Sun ?

A. Yes : when the North Pole is turned *from* the Sun, the most northern parts of the Earth receive not its rays for two or three months ; and again in July and August, when the North Pole is inclined *towards* the Sun, it never sets to them ; so that in winter the cold is intense, and the summer is excessively hot.¹

Q. What is the amount of population ?

A. It is said to be 60,000.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

Q. What are the boundaries of Sweden ?

A. Sweden, the eastern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, extends from the Gulf of Both'nia and

¹ The hot months are July and August. This great heat is owing to the great length of their day, which varies in different parts from 20 hours to a constant day of nearly three months. During their long Winter, the Laplander is not so destitute of light as at first one would imagine. A kind Providence has made him amends in the reflection of the snow and the Auro'ra Borealis, which sometimes is beautiful beyond description, sending forth streams of light of various forms and colours, and sometimes keeping its place and its appearances unchanged for several hours. Sometimes it is nothing more than a gradual increase of light which disappears again in a few minutes.

the Baltic (Bol-tic) Sea on the east, to the Dov'rine Mountains on the west ; and from the Baltic Sea on the south, to the Arctic Ocean on the north.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. Sweden is about 950 miles in length, and from 300 to 400 in breadth. The population is $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Sweden is a very picturesque country, being diversified with large lakes and rivers, cataracts, and dark forests of fir. It is more productive than Norway ; and here, as in that country, vegetation is very rapid.¹

Q. What period is requisite to witness the various seasons in this country ?

A. Four months ; June, July, August, and September. The Spring does not extend beyond a month, Summer occupies two, and Autumn about six weeks.

Q. What are the chief articles of commerce ?

A. The inhabitants export silver, iron, copper, timber, pitch, and tar ; and receive in exchange corn and other requisites.

Q. Which are the principal towns ?

A. Stock'holm, the capital, beautifully situated on seven small islands ; Up'sal, which contains a University ; Got'tenburg ; and Carlscro'na, a naval port.

Q. What islands belong to Sweden ?

A. Aland and Gotland in the Baltic. The Archipelago of Aland belonged to Sweden till 1809, when it was ceded to Russia.

NORWAY.

Q. What are the limits of Norway ?

A. Norway, which forms the western part of the

¹ So rapid that in the North barley has been sown and reaped in two months.

Scandinavian peninsula, is bounded by the Northern Ocean on the north, by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, by the North Sea on the south, and by the Dofrine Mountains on the east.

Q. What is the extent of Norway ?

A. It is about 1000 miles long—(*the breadth is very various*)—and contains upwards of 93,000 square miles. Its population is one million.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Norway is a very mountainous and unproductive country, more than three-fourths of it being unfit for cultivation. Some of the mountains are always covered with snow.¹

Q. How do the inhabitants subsist ?

A. Chiefly by hunting and fishing. They export also timber, copper, iron, dried fish, and eider down ; for which they receive in exchange corn and other necessities.

Q. Name some of the chief towns ?

A. Christiania, the capital ; Bergen, Drontheim, and Fredericshall.

Q. Which are the most remarkable capes ?

A. Cape Nord, in the north ; and the Naze, in the south.

Q. Did not Norway once belong to Denmark ?

A. Yes ; Norway was joined to Denmark in 1397. It was detached from that kingdom in 1814, and is now governed by a viceroy of the King of Sweden.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. The national religion is the Lutheran. The monarch of Sweden formerly possessed absolute

¹ The coast of Norway is extremely rugged and precipitous, having numerous deep inlets called Fiords, and an infinity of small islands inhabited only in summer for the purpose of collecting eider down, and by fishermen. There is also a fearful whirlpool called Maelström, or grinding stream, which is said to engulf everything within its influence. On the other hand this is said to be all a myth. The truth probably is that, lying between two islands, it becomes dangerous only under strong currents and peculiar winds.

power; but in 1810, on the accession of Bernadotte, (*a Frenchman, once a private soldier,*) the Diet was restored to its former powers. The Diet is composed of four houses—the nobles, the clergy, the peasants or farmers, and the burghers or citizens.

RUSSIA IN EUROPE.

Q. In what part of Europe is Russia ?

A. European Russia comprehends all the territory east of the Baltic Sea (Bol-tic), of Prussia and Austria to the Uralian Mountains; and extends from the Northern Ocean to the Black Sea and Turkey southward.

Q. What is the extent of this vast country ?

A. Russia, including Finland and a part of Poland, embraces more than the half of Europe, and a population of sixty-two millions.

Q. What is the appearance of the country ?

A. It is in general a very level country—the northern parts are cold and barren, but the central and southern parts, including the Crimea, a peninsula in the Black Sea, are peculiarly productive in corn, &c.¹

Q. What are the exports of the country ?

A. Leather, coarse linen, iron, copper, tallow, tar, hemp, flax, bristles, timber, and corn.

Q. Which are some of the principal towns ?

A. Petersburg, ² the capital, on the Gulf of Fin-

¹ The Russian Empire (Russia in Europe and Siberia in Asia) is perhaps the largest that ever existed, being 6,000 miles long and 2,000 broad. The central and southern parts of European Russia have a deep, rich soil, and it is here the immense quantities of wheat is grown, which is exported chiefly from Odes'sa. The steppes, which extend from the Sea of Azov to the Caspian Sea, and each side of the Uralian Mountains, are dry, treeless plains, and almost without vegetation of any sort.

² Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great, in 1703. Archangel was at that time its only port in the north, and was closed by the ice the greater part of the year. Hence the importance of a port in the Baltic Sea.

land ; Mos'cow (Mos-co), the former capital, which was destroyed by fire in September, 1812, by the inhabitants, to prevent the French army taking up winter quarters there ;—Ri'ga, on the Baltic (Bol-tic) Sea ; Archágel (Ark-an-gel), on the White Sea ; Odes'sa and Kher'son, on the Black Sea ; Warsaw, once the capital of Poland ; and Astrachan', on the Caspian Sea.

Q. Does not Russia possess several islands ?

A. A'land and Da'go in the Baltic Sea, Novazembla and Spitzber'gen in the Northern Ocean, belong to Russia.

Q. Give some particulars of the people ?

A. The Russians are in a complete state of serfdom, the owners of property reckoning their wealth by the number of serfs upon their land. They regard their emperor as God's representative, and pay adoration to his picture, which, with that of their patron saint, is always to be seen in their houses. They are very superstitious, fond of singing and noise, and addicted to drunkenness.

Q. What is the form of government ?

A. It is an absolute monarchy. The Emperor styles himself Autocrat,¹ which implies that he governs solely by his own right and according to his own will.

PRUSSIA.

Q. What are the boundaries of Prussia ?

A. Prus'sia is bounded by the Baltic (Bol-tic) Sea on the north ; by Germany and Poland on the south ; by the Netherlands on the west ; and by Russia on the east.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. It contains upwards of 100,000 square miles and a population of seventeen millions.

Q. What are the divisions of Prussia ?

A. Prussia is divided into two entirely distinct

¹ He is also called Czar, which is the same as Kaiser or Emperor.

parts : the eastern part or Prussia proper ; and the western part, or the Rhine provinces and West-phalia.

Q. What is the character of the soil ?

A. Prussia is generally a very flat but fertile country, producing much corn, though rye-bread is much eaten by the common people.

Q. Which are the principal towns ?

A. Berlin, the capital, on the river Spree, a branch of the Elbe ; Dan'tzic, the centre of the corn trade ; Mem'el, famous for its timber trade ; Bres'lau, and Kön'igsburgh ; in the territory of the Rhine, Bonn, Colo'gne (Col-ohn), Cleves, and Aix-la-Chapelle (Ex-la-shap-el).

Q. What constitutes the chief exports and imports of the country ?

A. Prussia exports considerable quantities of corn, timber, wool, and hams ; and receives as imports cloth, raw cotton, coals, &c.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. The prevailing religion is the Protestant, though there are many Roman Catholics, and both are supported by the State. The government is that of a limited monarchy, with a representative assembly.

Q. What is the condition of the people ?

A. Every child above the age of seven years is compelled to attend the public schools, so that the people are probably better educated than those of any other country of Europe.¹

DENMARK.²

Q. What is comprised in the kingdom of Denmark ?

A. The kingdom of Den'mark comprises the

¹ The disparity between the numbers attending school in Prussia and in England are not so great as might be supposed. In Prussia there were lately 2,605,448, in England 2,144,378—the population of the two countries being nearly equal.

² Observe that most of the peninsulas on the earth point southwards, and that Denmark is one of the few which run northwards.

peninsula of Jutland, the duchies of Holstein (Hol-shtine) and Sles'wick, the isles of Zee'land and Fu'nen, in the Baltic Sea ; the Fero'e Isles and I'celand, in the North Atlantic Ocean ; and the western coast of Greenland.

Q. Where is the peninsula of Jutland ?

A. It is bounded by Ska'ger Rack on the north, by the North Sea on the west, and by the Baltic Sea on the east.

Q. What is the appearance of the country ?

A. Jutland is a very flat country, containing numerous small lakes, and is the most unproductive part of the kingdom.

Q. Where are Holstein (Hol-shtine) and Sles'wick ?

A. South of the peninsula, and are much more fertile. The corn which is exported from Den'mark is principally grown on the islands of the Baltic Sea (Bol-tic).

Q. Describe I'celand ?

A. The island measures about 350 miles in length, and 200 in breadth : and volcanic matter everywhere covers the surface, and prohibits cultivation. There are also numerous boiling springs, called Géysers.

Q. What are the extent and population of Den'mark ?

A. Inclusive of I'celand it contains 29,000 square miles, and a population of about three millions who are chiefly employed in agriculture.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Copenha'gen,¹ the capital, in the island of Zéa-land ; Elsinóre ; and Kiel, where there is a university.

Q. What are the chief articles of commerce ?

¹ A fleet was despatched against Copenhagen in 1807, under Admiral Nelson. The city was besieged by the English and defended with great fortitude by the citizens, who were defeated in one of the most terrible battles ever fought. At Elsinore a toll was exacted till recently of all ships entering the Baltic, under the name of Sound Dues. These have now been compounded for.

A. The commerce of Denmark is not great. Manufactured goods are for the most part imported, but as two-thirds of the country is arable, and a considerable part pasture, it is enabled to export much corn, cattle, and dried meat, which is called Ham-burg beef.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. The religion is the Protestant. The form of government is a limited monarchy, with a representative parliament.

NETHERLANDS.¹

HOLLAND.

Q. What are the boundaries of Holland ?

A. Holland, which with Belgium formed the kingdom of the Neth'erlands, or Low Countries, is bounded on the north and west by the German Ocean, on the south by Belgium, and on the east by Germany.

Q. What are the divisions of the country ?

A. Holland Proper, Zéaland, U'trecht, (U'-trekt), Gel'derland, Overys'sel, Frie'sland, Gron'ingen, North Braban't, and Lux'emburgh.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Holland is a very flat and marshy country lying in many parts below the level of the sea, but well cultivated ; the streets are peculiarly formed with broad canals running up the middle.

Q. Are there not numerous large inlets along the coast ?

A. Yes. Dollart Zee (Za), Zuy'der Zee, the Y, and Haarlem Meer ; and their waters are only prevented

¹ In the year 1806, Napoleon erected Holland into a kingdom, of which he made his brother Louis sovereign. In 1810, it became an integral part of France. The downfall of Napoleon brought about another revolution, and in 1814 it was united to Belgium, and formed the kingdom of the Netherlands. In 1830, Belgium revolted, and both Holland and Belgium have since remained distinct kingdoms.

from overflowing the land by immense artificial dykes.

Q. What is the nature of the commerce of the country?

A. Holland was once the most actively trading country in Europe, and is still a very wealthy country. It exports butter (20,000,000 lb. annually), cheese, spirits, and colonial products, especially spices, in great quantities.

Q. What are the extent and population of Holland?

A. It contains 13,000 square miles, and a population of three millions.

Q. Which are the principal towns?

A. Am'sterdam, the capital, situated on the Zuy'der Zee, (Zoi-der-Za), Rot'terdam, Haarlem, U'trecht, and Ley'den. The Hague in South Holland may be ranked among the most beautiful cities of Europe.

Q. What is the character of the people?

A. The people of Holland, called Dutch, are very industrious and enterprising, cleanly and frugal.¹

Q. What is the religion and form of government of Holland?

A. The religion is the Protestant. The form of government is a limited monarchy with two houses of parliament.

BELGIUM.

Q. Name the situation of Belgium?

A. Belgium is situated between Holland on the

¹ The Dutch are a very interesting people, and though remarkable for their gravity, are nevertheless during the time their canals are frozen over (which often happens for three months together) exceedingly gay and animated. Numerous groups of men, women, and children, may be seen gliding over the ice with astonishing velocity; and in the dark evenings, carriages beautifully painted, fixed on sledges, and drawn by horses decorated with feathers, ribbons, bells, &c., and preceded by pages holding flaming torches, fly from one street to another.

north, and France on the south, and is the southern division of the Neth'erlands.

Q. What are the divisions of the country ?

A. West Flanders, East Flanders, Ant'werp, South Braban't, Hain'aule (Ha-no), Namur, Liege (Le-azh), and Limburgh.

Q. Is Belgium a fertile country ?

A. Belgium is not naturally a fertile country, but by careful industry the soil has become highly productive, and Flanders especially has long been distinguished for excellent farming.¹

Q. Are not the manufactures of Belgium important ?

A. Belgium being next to England the richest in coal of any other country, manufactures numerous articles in metals, linen, carpets, and lace.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. Belgium contains 12,000 square miles, and a population of 4½ millions.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Brus'sels the capital, in South Braban't, and Antwerp, Ghent (Gahng), and Liege. Waterloo, where Buonaparte was finally defeated on the 18th of June, 1815, is in South Braban't.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. The established religion is the Roman Catholic. The government is a limited monarchy with a representative parliament, called the States-General.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Q. What is comprehended in the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

A. Great Britain comprehends England, Wales, and Scotland ; Ireland ; the Isles of Man and An'gle-sea, in the Irish Sea ; the Isles of Wight, Guernsey,

¹ The land reclaimed by the erection of dykes is planted with a sort of reed which in time forms a rich soil, and after being well drained is then called *polders*.

and Jersey, and several other small islands in the English Channel ; besides numerous possessions in other parts of the globe.

Q. Where is the island of Great Britain ?

A. The island of Great Britain is situated in the north-western part of the eastern hemisphere, and is the largest island of Europe. It is separated from France on the south by the English Channel, from the Neth'erlands on the east by the North Sea or German Ocean, and from Ireland by the Irish Sea.

Q. What are the divisions of this island ?

A. It is divided into England, Wales, and Scotland, which are again severally divided into counties, of which there are in England forty ; in Wales twelve ; in Scotland thirty-three.

Q. Name the counties of England according to their relative situations ?

A. The six northern counties are—

Northumberland	Yorkshire
Cumberland	Westmoreland, and
Durham	Lancashire.

The twelve midland—

Nottinghamshire	Worcestershire
Derbyshire	(Wors-ter-shire)
Staffordshire	Gloucestershire
Leicestershire	(Glos-ter-shire)
Rutlandshire	Oxfordshire
Northamptonshire	Buckinghamshire and
Warwickshire	Bedfordshire.

The four southern—

Berkshire	Hampshire and
Wiltshire	Dorsetshire.

The eight eastern—

Lincolnshire	Suffolk
Huntingdonshire	Essex
Cambridgeshire	Hertfordshire and
Norfolk	Middlesex.

The three south-eastern—

Surrey	Kent	and Sussex.
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The four western—

Cheshire	Herefordshire and
Shropshire	Monmouthshire.

The three south-western—

Somersetshire	and Cornwall.
Devonshire	

Q. Give the names of the county towns ?

A. Most of the counties contain a town of the same name, but those which do not are—

County.	Town.
Northumberland ...	Newcastle, on Tyne.
Cumberland	Carlisle, on the Eden.
Westmoreland	Appleby, on the Eden.
Rutlandshire.....	Oakham.
Berkshire	Reading (Red-ding), on the Thames.
Wiltshire	Salisbury (Sols-bury).
Hampshire	Southampton.
Dorsetshire	Dorchester.
Norfolk.....	Norwich (Nor-rich), on the Yare.
Suffolk	Ipswich (Ips-ich), on the Orwell.
Essex.....	Chelmsford, on the Chelmer.
Middlesex.....	London, on the Thames.
Surrey	Guildford, Croydon.
Kent	Maidstone, on the Medway.
Sussex	Lewes.
Shropshire	Shrewsbury, on the Severn.
Somersetshire	Taunton.
Devonshire	Exeter, on the Ex.
Cornwall	Launceston (Lawn-ston).

Q. What is the origin of the term County ?

A. County properly means a division (shire), governed by a Count or Earl.

Q. Are these divisions of equal extent ?

A. The counties are very unequal in extent—Yorkshire, the largest, is divided into three Ridings, North, East, and West, and contains a population of

more than 1,500,000 ; whilst Rutland, the smallest, contains only 21,000.

Q. What are the natural features of England ?

A. Few countries of like extent present a greater diversity of natural features ; but the northern parts are the most hilly, Westmoreland and Cumberland exhibiting most beautiful mountain scenery, with numerous lakes of every variety. The soil is generally fertile, and is highly cultivated.

Q. Where are the highest summits in England ?

A. The Che'viot hills which divide this country from Scotland ; Skid'daw in Cumberland ; the Peak in Derbyshire ; and the Malvern (Maw-vern) Hills in Worcestershire.

Q. Which are the most valuable minerals of England ?

A. Iron, tin, (which is very rarely met with in other countries is found in great abundance in the county of Cornwall, whence it is exported to all parts of Europe,) copper, lead, coal, limestone, and very many others.

Q. What are the principal manufactures of this country ?

A. The manufactures of this country are more numerous than those of any other country in the world ; but the most important are cotton and woollen goods, hardware, cutlery, earthenware, china, glass, paper, &c. &c.

Q. Is not the commerce of England very great ?

A. It very far exceeds that of any other country in the world ; more than 24,000 ships being employed in this way, and nearly 200,000 sailors.

Q. Which are the principal trading ports ?

A. London,¹ the capital, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, and Newcastle.

Q. Which are the principal naval ports ?

A. Chatham, on the Medway ; Portsmouth and

¹ London, situated on the banks of the Thames, in the county of Middlesex, is the finest city in the world, and contains a population, taking in its suburbs, of three millions.

Plymouth, on the Channel ; Sheerness, Woolwich and Deptford (Det-ford) on the Thames ; and Milford Haven, in Pembrokeshire.

Q. Which are the most level parts of the country ?

A. The counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Shropshire, and Cheshire ; the Bedford Level, and the plain of the Ouse (Ooz).

Q. Name the products of any particular localities which you may know.

A. Hops are very extensively grown in Kent and Worcestershire ; apples, for cider, in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Devon ; and about one-half of the area of England is pasture, and one-third is arable.

Q. Name a few inland trading places ?

A. Manchester, Preston, and Bolton, in Lancashire, are famous for their trade in cotton ; Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield, in Yorkshire ; Bradford, in Wiltshire ; and Stroud, in Gloucestershire, for woollens and cloth ; Birmingham,¹ in Warwickshire, and Wolverhampton in Staffordshire, for hardware ; Sheffield, in Yorkshire, for cutlery ; Staffordshire and Worcestershire, for china and earthenware ; Nottingham and Leicester, for stockings and lace ; Axminster and Kidderminster, for carpets ; Stafford and Northampton, for boots and shoes ; Worcester, for gloves ; Macclesfield and Coventry, for silk and ribbons ; Redditch, for needles.

Q. Are not the exports of the country very great ?

A. The exports of Great Britain include almost every kind of manufactured goods in metals, earthenware, cotton, wool, &c., to the amount of about 130 millions annually.

Q. What are the chief rivers in England ?

A. The Thames, which rises near Cirencester, in Gloucestershire, flows in an eastern direction to the

¹ Birmingham has been called the toy shop of the world, since its manufactures include almost every conceivable thing.

English Channel ; the Severn, which rises in Montgomeryshire, in Wales, flows into the Bristol Channel ; the Trent and the Ouse, which join the Humber and run into the North Sea ; the Mersey, on which Liverpool is situated ; and the Medway.

Q. Which are the chief capes ?

A. Flamborough Head and Spurn Head, in Yorkshire ; North and South Foreland, in Kent ; Beachy Head, in Sussex ; Portland Bill, in Dorsetshire ; Lizard Point, and the Land's End, in Cornwall.

Q. What is the English character ?

A. The people of England, living under one of the happiest constitutions ever framed by man, are inferior to those of no other country in the world, in intelligence, virtue, courage, and industry.

WALES.

Q. What is the relative situation of Wales ?

A. Wales is the south-western portion of the island of Great Britain, and is the only part of the island in which the native British language is still used.

Q. You said there were twelve counties in Wales, can you name them ?

A. The six northern are Flintshire, Denbighshire, Carnarvonshire, Isle of Anglesea, Merionethshire, and Montgomeryshire ; the six southern, are Radnorshire, Cardiganshire, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Brecknockshire, and Glamorganshire.

Q. What is the character of the country ?

A. It is very rugged and mountainous, of great mineral wealth in the south, and is much visited on account of its picturesque beauty.

Q. Which are the greatest elevations ?

A. Snowdon, in Carnarvonshire ; Ca'der I'dris, in Merionethshire ; Plynlimmon, which contains the source of the Severn, in Montgomeryshire.

Q. What are the extent and population of England and Wales ?

A. England and Wales contain nearly 57,000 square miles, and twenty millions population, of which scarcely one million belongs to Wales.

SCOTLAND.

Q. In what part of the island is Scotland ?

A. Scotland is a long narrow country, north of England, is very mountainous, and therefore unfit for tillage ; but the inhabitants of the highlands feed numerous herds of cattle and flocks of sheep.¹

Q. Does not Scotland contain the highest mountains in the island ?

A. Yes ; Ben Ne'vis, 4,350 feet high, is the highest summit of the Gram'pian hills, a chain which runs from north to south.

Q. What are Murray Frith, and Frith of Forth ?

A. Two large rivers or bays, which nearly intersect the island. The other rivers of Scotland are the Tay, the Clyde, and the Tweed.

Q. Are there not many lakes in Scotland ?

A. Yes ; the chief of these are Loch-Lomond, the largest in Great Britain, in the county of Dum-barton ; Loch-Tay, in Perthshire ; Loch-Ness, in Inverness, and Loch-Katrine (Lock-Kat-rin).

Q. Can you name the counties of Scotland ?

A. The Highland counties are

Chief Towns.²

Bute (including Arran)	Rothsay
Argyle	Inverary
Inverness	

¹ The northern parts of Scotland are called Highlands, which are very wild and romantic, and the southern parts Lowlands. The Lowlands are comparatively level and productive, and Scotch farmers have long been reckoned among the best in the world.

² The chief towns only are mentioned which are not of the same name as the county itself.

Chief Towns.

Nairn	
Moray or Elgin.....	Elgin
Banff	
Aberdeen	
Cromarty	
Ross.....	Tain
Sutherland	Dornoch
Caithnes's	Wick
Orkney	Kirkwall
The Lowlands are	
Berwick	Dunse
Roxburgh	Jedburgh
Selkirk	
Peebles	
Dumfrie's	
Kirkcudbright (Kirk-oo-bre)	
Wigton	
Ayr	
Renfre'w	
Lan'ark	
Linlithgow	} the Lóthians...
Edinburgh	
Haddington	
Fife	Cupar
Kinross	
Clackmannan.....	
Stirling ..	
Dumbarton	
Perth	
Angus or Forfar	Forfar
Kincardine.....	Stonehaven

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. Scotland contains 29,000 square miles, of which only a small portion is arable, and a population of three millions.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Edinburgh, the capital, on the Frith of Forth ; Glasgow, and Paisley, famous for their trade in cotton goods ; Aberdeen ; and Dundee.

Q. What islands belong to Scotland ?

A. The coast of Scotland is very rugged, and the islands are very numerous ; but the chief are the Orkneys, the Shetlands (famed for the breed of ponies), and the Hebrides,¹ (Heb-re-dees) or Western isles, of which not more than one-third are inhabited.

Q. What is the Scotch character ?

A. The Scotch people are remarkable for their intelligence and persevering industry, arising from the diffusion of education, which extends to the lowest classes of the people.

IRELAND.

Q. You mentioned Ireland as being part of Great Britain. Where is Ireland ?

A. Ireland is an island about 300 miles long and 180 in its greatest breadth, which is situated westward of England, from which it is separated by the Irish Sea and St. George's channel.

Q. What are the divisions of this country ?

A. Ireland is divided into four provinces : Leinster in the eastern part of the island ; Connaught in the western ; Ulster in the northern ; and Munster in the southern part.

Q. Can you name the counties of Ireland ?

A. The province of Léinster contains—

Dublin	West Meath
Louth	King's County
Wicklow	Queen's County
Wexford	Kilkenny
Longford	Kildare
East Meath	Carlow.

¹ Fingal's Cave, in the isle of Staffa, one of the Hebrides, is a great natural curiosity. It is a natural grotto formed by ranges of columns one above another, and roofed by the bottoms of those which have been broken off, and the whole has the appearance of rich gothic architecture. The sea reaches to the extremity of the cave, which is a hundred and forty feet long, fifty-six feet high, and fifty feet wide at the entrance.

The province of Ulster contains—

Down	Antrim
Arma'gh (Ar-mah)	Tyro'ne
Mon'aghan (Mon-ah-an)	Fermana'gh (Fer-man-ah)
Cavan	Donegal.
Londonderry	

The province of Con'naught contains—

Leitrim	Sligo
Roscommon	Galway (Gaul-way).
Mayo	

The province of Munster contains—

Clare	Limerick
Cork	Tipperary
Kerry	Waterford.

Q. What is the character of the soil ?

A. Ireland is remarkable for its fertility, but agriculture is greatly neglected. The climate is milder than that of England, the summer being cooler and the winter less severe.¹

Q. Do you know any other feature of the country ?

A. Its numerous lakes and bogs form about one-tenth of its entire surface—of the lakes the chief are Lough Neagh, noted for the petrifying quality of its waters ; Allan ; and those of Killarney, which are exceedingly grand and beautiful. The largest bog is that of Allan.²

Q. Does not Ireland contain numerous minerals ?

A. Yes ; the chief of which are copper, in Cork ; lead, iron, pretty generally diffused, and some silver and gold in Wicklow ; but these resources are made of but little avail, and even the copper and iron are sent to Wales to be smelted.

Q. Which are the finest rivers ?

A. The Liffey, the Shannon, the Boyne, and the Blackwater.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

¹ Much more rain falls in Ireland than in England, which makes the country appear very verdant ; hence its name of the Emerald Isle.

² Though Ireland is now singularly destitute of trees, numerous trunks of trees are found in its bogs.

A. Dublin, the capital, on the Liffey ; Waterford ; Cork ; Limerick, on the Shannon ; Belfast ; and Galway in the extreme west.

Q. Does not Ireland contain a numerous population ?

A. Yes ; the population is nearly eight millions, of whom three-fourths are Roman Catholics. The Protestants are most numerous in Ulster.

Q. What are the chief exports ?

A. Fine linen, chiefly from Belfast, great quantities of grain, cattle, and pigs.

Q. What is the Irish character ?

A. The native Irish are hasty, impetuous, and imprudent ; but they are also warm-hearted and docile ; and though extremely poor are very hospitable.

Q. What is the established religion of Great Britain ?

A. It may be called Episcopal Protestantism, but others are tolerated. In England and Wales there are two Archbishops, namely, of Canterbury and York ; and twenty-six Bishops. In Ireland there are two Archbishops and ten Bishops.¹ The religion of Scotland is of the Presbyterian form, therefore there are no Bishops.

Q. What is the English form of Government ?

A. A limited monarchy with two houses of parliament, whose concurrence is necessary for enacting and annulling any law.

Q. Who are the members of the House of Lords ?

A. The House of Lords consists of the temporal peers of England, the elective peers of Scotland and Ireland,² the English bishops and four Irish bishops.

✱

¹ The Roman Catholic Church maintains 4 Archbishops and 23 Bishops.

² There are 16 Scotch peers and 28 Irish peers in the House of Lords, who "are elective representatives for life; the spiritual peers (4) take the office in rotation.

Q. Who are the members of the House of Commons?

A. The members of the House of Commons are elected by the votes of the people, to represent their interest. The total number is 658;—for England, 471; for Wales, 29; Scotland, 53; Ireland, 105.¹

FRANCE.

Q. Where is France?

A. France is bounded on the north by Belgium and the English Channel; on the west by the Bay of Bis'cay; on the south by the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean Sea; and on the east by Italy, Switzerland, and Germany.

Q. What are the divisions of France?

A. France, which before the revolution in 1789 was divided into 32 provinces, is now divided into 86 departments.

Q. Describe the climate of France.

A. France, being situated in the middle of the temperate zone, has an agreeable and healthy climate, especially in the south, which has become the retreat of numerous invalids.²

Q. What is the character of the soil?

A. The soil is in general very fertile, but that of the southern provinces is peculiarly so, producing abundance of wines, (which are esteemed the best in the world) olives, maize, and beet-root.³

Q. What are the extent and population?

A. France is nearly 700 miles in length and 600 in breadth; and contains 36 millions of inhabitants.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Paris, the capital, on the river Seine (Sane),

¹ Ireland, though conquered by Henry II. in 1172, was not brought into union with England till 1800.

² Montpellier (Mong-pel-yea), in the Mediterranean, is pre-eminent in this respect.

³ The wines of Champagne, Burgundy, and Claret from Bordeaux, are in highest esteem; and beet-root is grown chiefly for the manufacture of sugar. The mulberry tree, too, is greatly cultivated for the rearing of silk-worms.

containing 900,000 inhabitants ; Rouen (Roo-ahn, noted for its trade in cotton goods ; Lyons (Le-ong), the centre of general trade ; Toulouse (Too-looz), and Strasburg, noted for its curious astronomical clock.

Q. Mention the principal sea-ports.

A. Dun'kirk ; Cal'ais, the nearest port to England ; Boulo'gne (Boo-lone) ; Havre-de-Grace (Havr-de-Gras) ; and Cher'burg, in the English Channel ; Brest ; Rochel'le (Ro-shel) ; and Bordeaux (Bor-do), on the western coast ; Marsei'lles (Mar-sale-ya), and Toulon (Too-lon), on the Mediterranean Sea.

Q. What are the principal mountains ?

A. Besides those already mentioned there are the Alps which divide it from Italy ; the Ceven'nes (Se-ven), and those of Auver'gne (O-vern).

Q. Which are the greatest rivers ?

A. The Seine which runs into the English Channel ; the Loire (Lwar), and the Garon'ne into the Bay of Biscay ; and the Rhone into the Mediterranean Sea.

Q. Are there not also extensive forests in France ?

A. Yes : wood being the ordinary fuel, its growth is thus rendered essential. The forest of Orleans alone covers 15,000 acres.

Q. What are the chief articles of commerce ?

A. Wines (to the extent of 30 millions sterling), oils, silks, linen, jewellery and numerous articles of fashion.

Q. What islands belong to France in the Mediterranean Sea ?

A. Corsica,¹ which is very mountainous, and 116 miles in length and 51 in its greatest breadth, and the Hieres (He-air).

Q. What islands does France possess in the Bay of Biscay ?

¹ Rouen (Roo-ahn) has been called the Manchester, and Lyons (Le-ong) the Birmingham, of France.

² The celebrated Napoleon Buonaparte was born at Ajaccio, in the island of Corsica, the 15th of August, 1769. After his final defeat at Waterloo, he was banished by the English to the island of St. Helena, in the South Atlantic Ocean, where he died on the 5th of May, 1821.

A. Ushan't (Oo-shang), Belléisle (Bel-eel), and Oleron.

Q. What is the religion and form of government in France ?

A. The religion of France is Roman Catholic, but other sects are supported by the government. The form of government has recently undergone several changes. Before the revolution (1798) it was an absolute monarchy ; afterwards a limited monarchy was established ; till another revolution, in 1848, made Napoleon III. Emperor with almost unlimited power.

Q. What is the French character ?

A. The French are intelligent, polite, and very fond of out-door amusements. The French language is spoken in almost every part of the world.

SPAIN.

Q. What are the boundaries of Spain ?

A. The Bay of Biscay and the Pyrenees on the north ; Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean on the west ; the straits of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean Sea on the south and east.

Q. How is Spain divided ?

A. It is divided into 14 provinces.¹

Q. What is the natural geography of Spain ?

A. Spain has a delightful climate, and abounds in beautiful pasturages, orange groves, and vineyards ; but only one-fourth is arable, and more than one-half is unenclosed. The climate of the south and the coast is unequalled ; but that of the interior is not so healthy.

Q. What are some of the productions of this fertile country ?

¹ Galicia, Asturias, Biscay, Navarre, Arragon, Catalonia, Valencia, Murcia, Granada, Andalusia, Estramadura, Leon, Old Castile, New Castile. At Cordova in Andalusia, Abderhaman, a celebrated Moor, built one of the most superb mosques in the world ; it was supported by 365 marble columns, had nineteen bronze gates of curious workmanship, and was lighted by 4,700 lamps, kept continually burning.

A. Wine, fine wheat, fine wool, saffron, and the olive ; it produces also very delicious fruits,—oranges, lemons, prunes, raisins, figs, and nuts.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. The extent is estimated at nearly 180,000 square miles. Its population is but about 15½ millions.

Q. Mention some of the principal towns ?

A. Madrid', the capital ; Barcelóna, Coru'na, Bilbóa, Ca'diz, Seville, Xéres, Valen'cia, and Mal'aga.¹

Q. What are the most noted mountains ?

A. Spain is traversed by the Sierra Moréna, and the Sierra Neváda, the mountains of Castile (Castel) and Toledo, whose sides display a great variety of climate. The rock of Gibraltar is at the southern extremity of the peninsula, and since the year 1704 has been in the possession of the English.

Q. Which are the principal rivers ?

A. The Doúro (Doo-roo), Tagus, Ebro, and Guadalquivér.

Q. Which are the most noted capes of Spain ?

A. Cape Fin'isterre in the north, and Cape Trafalgar in the south, off which the renowned Nelson lost his life in a battle with the combined French and Spanish fleets, on the 21st of October, 1805.

Q. What islands in the Mediterranean belong to Spain ?

A. Ivaça, Majorca, and Minorca (Balearic Isles).

Q. Are not the foreign possessions of Spain very extensive ?

A. At one time Spain possessed fully one-half of America, which has now been formed into separate independent states. At present she owns Cuba and Porto Rico, in the West Indies ; the Philippine and the Ladrón islands, in the Pacific Ocean.

¹ Barcelona exports great quantities of nuts, Malaga and Valencia raisins, Cadiz and Seville oranges, and Xeres, which gives its name to Sherry wine, is the centre of that trade.

Q. What is the religion and government of Spain?

A. The religion is the Roman Catholic. The government is a limited monarchy.

Q. Can you mention any peculiarity of the people?

A. The characteristics of the Spaniards are pride, gravity, and revenge; and bull-fights are among their most favourite amusements.

PORTUGAL.

Q. Describe the relative situation of Portugal?

A. Portugal is situated in the western part of the Spanish peninsula, having Spain on the north and east, and the Atlantic Ocean on the west and south.

Q. How is the country divided?

A. Portugal is divided into six provinces.¹

Q. What is the climate and appearance of Portugal?

A. The climate is very healthy and the soil fertile; the country is very hilly and produces oranges, lemons, and wine, the chief of which is exported to England and known by the name of Port, from Opor'to, the name of the principal sea port.

Q. What are the extent and population?

A. It is 360 miles long and 120 broad; and contains between 3 and 4 millions of inhabitants.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Lisbon, the capital, on the Tagus; and Opor'to on the Doúro (Doo-ro).

Q. Can you tell me the religion and kind of government?

A. The religion is the Roman Catholic. The sovereign's power was absolute till 1836, when a constitutional system was established.

SWITZERLAND.

Q. What are the boundaries of Switzerland?

A. Switzerland is situated among the Alps

¹ Portugal was separated from Spain in 1139, and given to Alfonso, a brave warrior, who defeated the Moors in the battle of Ourique, and was its first monarch.

² Entre, Minho, and Douro; Tras os Montes, Beira, Estramadura, Alentejo, Algarva.

under various names, and has Germany on the north and east ; Italy on the south ; and France on the west.

Q. What are the political divisions of Switzerland ?

A. Switzerland is divided into cantons, or counties, of which there are twenty-two in number.¹

Q. Is not Switzerland a very picturesque country ?

A. Yes : it presents more beautiful and romantic prospects than any other country in Europe—large lakes, rivers, cataracts, mountains, whose tops are covered with perpetual snow—and most delightful villages, with here and there a few pleasant cottages.

Q. What is the climate of this romantic country ?

A. The climate of Switzerland is very various—so various that all the seasons of the year may be witnessed in one day.

Q. How is this diversity produced ?

A. " In the valley and on the lower parts of the mountains the heat is excessive, the meadows are green, and the country people busy in reaping the corn ; as you advance the air becomes moderate, and you are shaded by forests of larch and pine ; higher up it grows cold and the ground is covered with moss ; but above all, the cold is extreme."

Q. What are the extent and population of Switzerland ?

A. In extent it is about 14,000 square miles ; it is not very populous, containing little more than 2½ millions of inhabitants.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Berne, Bâle (Bahl), Zürich, Genève, and Lausanne (Lo-zan).

Q. How do the inhabitants employ themselves ?

A. They manufacture watches, silk, linen, and printed cottons ; and in some cantons the manage-

¹ Berne, Friburg, Soleure, Basle, Lucerne, Underwalden, Uri, Schwitz, Zuriel, Zug, Glarus, Appenzel, Schaffhausen, Grisons, Valais, Geneva, Neuchâtel, St. Gall, Constance, Argovia, Vaud or Fribourg, and Thessin.

ment of dairies and the breeding of cattle form their chief employment.

Q. Are not the Swiss very fond of their wild mountains ?

A. Yes ; they are remarkable for their attachment to their native country. They are also a very brave people, hardy, honest, and industrious.

Q. What is their religion and form of government ?

A. The greater portion profess the Protestant religion, but in some cantons they are nearly all Roman Catholics. The government is a republic. Each canton has a vote in the Diet or National Assembly, which meets every two years at Berne, Lucerne, or Zürich.

ITALY.

Q. Where is Italy ?

A. Italy is a peninsula, in the south of Europe, in form much resembling a boot. It is separated from Switzerland by the Alps, and has France and the Mediterranean on the west, and the Adriatic Sea on the east.

Q. What are the political divisions of Italy ?

A. Italy contains several distinct states, namely, the States of the Church ; Austrian Italy ; Sardinia, including Lombardy ; Naples, or the two Sicilies ; the Duchies of Parma and Modena ; the Grand Duchy of Tuscany ; and San Morino (Mo-re-no).

Q. In what part of Italy are the States of the Church, or the Papal Dominions ?

A. The States of the Church are in the central parts. The chief city is Rome on the Tiber, which, though built between two and three thousand years ago, is still, in its magnificent buildings, one of the finest cities in Europe.

Q. Where is Austrian Italy ?

A. In the northern part, and till recently included all the country north of the Ticino (Tetché-no) and the Po to the Alps (the most beautiful plain in Europe); but is now limited to Venetia, chief town Venice, beautifully situated on seventy small islands.

Q. What is included in the kingdom of Sardinia?

A. The island of that name in the Mediterranean Sea, Savoy, Piedmont (Peed-mong), Genoa, and Lombardy, recently acquired from Austria.

Q. Mention some of the more important towns of this portion of Italy?

A. Turin, the capital; Nice (Neese); Genoa; and Milan, in Lombardy, famous for its magnificent cathedral.

Q. Where is the kingdom of Náples?

A. The kingdom of Náples comprehends the southern portion of the peninsula, and the island of Sic'ily. The chief cities are Náples, Paler'mo, Syr'a-cuse, and Messína (Mes-se-nah),¹ from which the straits between Italy and Sic'ily are so called?

Q. Mention some other cities of Italy?

A. Flor'ence, on the Arno; Leg'horn, and Pisa (Pe-sa), all in Tuscany; and Civita Vec'chia (Chivita Vek-e-ah) in the Papal States.

Q. What is the general description of Italy?

A. Italy is a very beautiful and fertile country with a most delightful climate; but in the kingdom of Naples the heat in summer is excessive.

Q. What is the malária?

A. The malária is a pestilential atmosphere which prevails along the coast, the Pon'tine Marshes, and the Campágna de (Compahn-yah da) Roma, rendering entire districts uninhabitable.

Q. Which are the chief rivers of Italy?

A. The Po, which runs from the Alps to the

¹ In these straits were the celebrated Scyl'la and Charyb'dis: Scylla, a dangerous rock, and Charyb'dis, a whirlpool once believed to engulf every ship that came near it.

Adriatic Sea ; the Adige ; the Arno ; and the Tiber, from the Apennines to the Mediterranean Sea. ,

Q. Where is the lake district of Italy ?

A. The Italian lakes, which are remarkable for their picturesque beauty, lie among the southern slopes of the Alps ; the largest is Garda, Maggiore (Mad-je-o-ra) is the prettiest, and Como the finest.

Q. What are the products of this country ?

A. Wine, oil (the best in Europe), fruits, silk in great abundance, and sulphur from Sicily.

Q. Mention some of the chief islands of Italy ?

A. Besides those already mentioned, Elba, off the coast of Tus'cany, famous as the place to which Napoleon retired in 1814 ; and Malta,¹ which belongs to the English, south of Sicily.

Q. What is the prevailing religion of Italy ?

A. The religion of Italy is the Roman Catholic ; and, though there are numerous universities, education is deplorably deficient.

GERMANY.

Q. To what part of Europe is the name of Germany applied ?

A. To all the central part, which comprehends many distinct kingdoms and states.

Q. Can you tell the names of these kingdoms and states ?

A. Germany includes 38 independent states, the chief of which are Austria ; Prussia ; Hanover ; Saxony ; Bavaria ; Wirtemberg ; Brunswick ; Oldenburg ; Meck'lenburg ; Bâden ; Nassau (Nas-sow) ; Hesse Cas'sel ; Hesse Darmstadt ; Saxe Weimar, and Coburg Gotha ; and the free towns, Hamburg

¹ The capital of Malta is Valetta, a place of great strength, with an excellent harbour—this, in addition to the central position of Malta, renders it of the greatest value to England.

on the Elbe, Lubeck, Bremen, and Frankfort on the Maine.¹

Q. In what part of Germany is the kingdom of Hanover ?

A. Hanover is the most northern country of Germany, and was formerly governed by a viceroy of the sovereign of England.

¹ Ancient Germany comprehended all the country from the Alps to the Baltic Sea, and from the borders of France to the confines of Russia. The last emperor of Germany was Francis II. ; he resigned this title in 1806, and retained only the title of Emperor of Austria.

The 38 states of modern Germany includes 1 Empire, 5 Kingdoms, 16 Duchies and Grand Duchies, 1 Electorate, and 11 Principalities.

CHIEF TOWNS.

Austria	Vienna.
Prussia	Berlin.
Bavaria	Münich.
Han'over	Han'over.
Wir'temburg	Stutgard.
Saxony	Dresden.
Baden	Carlsruhe.
Mecklenburg Schwerin	Schwerin (Shva-rin).
Hesse	Darm'stadt.
Hol'stein	Gluck'stadt.
Ol'denburg	Ol'denburg.
Lux'emburg	Lux'emburg.
Nas'sau	Wiesbaden.
Brunswick	Brunswick.
Saxe Weimar	Weimar.
Mecklenburgh Strelitz	Neustrelitz (Noi-strelitz).
Saxe Mein'ingen	Mein'ingen.
Saxe Coburg Gotha	Coburg.
Saxe Altenburg	Altenburg.
Waldeck	Corbach.
Lippe Detmold	Detmold.
Reus	Schleitz.
Anhalt Dessau	Dessau (Des-sow).
Anhalt Bernburg	Bernburg.
Anhalt Kothén	Kothén.
Schwartzburg Rudolstadt	Rudolstadt.
Schwartzburg Sondershausen	Sondershausen (Son-ders-how-zen).
Hohenzollern	Sigmaringen.
Reus (Rois)	Griez.
Schaumburg Lippe	Buckeburg.
Hesse	Homburg.
Hohenzollern Hee'hingen	Hee'hingen.
Lichtenstein	Lichtenstein.

And the Hanse Towns—Hamburg, Lubeck, Bremen, and Frankfort.

Q. What is the extent and population of Hanover?

A. It contains 15,000 square miles : and a population of two millions. The chief towns are Hanover and Gottenburg.

Q. In what part of Germany is Saxony?

A. In the northern part, between Prussia on the north and Bohemia on the south ; and it contains $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions of inhabitants.

Q. Which are the chief places?

A. Dresden, the capital ; and Lēspzic, distinguished as the centre of the book trade of Germany and for its university.

Q. In what part of Germany is Bavaria?

A. Bavaria, next to Prussia, the most powerful of the five kingdoms, is in the southern extremity, bordering on Switzerland and the Tyrol. It contains nearly five millions of inhabitants ; and the fine cities of Munich and Ratisbon.

Q. Describe Wirtemberg?

A. Wirtemberg is situated north of Switzerland, and west of Bavaria ; with a population of two millions. The chief town is Stuttgard.

Q. What is the character of the country?

A. More than a third of the surface is forest land, and there are very extensive heaths and morasses in Hanover and Bavaria ; but of all the states Saxony is the most fertile and beautiful.

Q. Can you give any other particulars of Germany?

A. Germany abounds in minerals and mineral springs ; carries on with this country a considerable trade in wool, timber, corn, linen, and hams (from Westphalia) ; and is remarkable for the great number of illustrious men it has produced.¹

¹ Germany has produced distinguished authors in every branch of learning—Kepler and Herschel, astronomers ; Neibuhr, historian ; Goethe and Schiller, poets ; Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, musicians ; Holbein and Rubens, painters ; with a host of authors of less mark in science, metaphysics, and theology.

Q. Where are the most noted mineral springs of Germany?

A. At Aix la Chapelle, on the Rhine; Toplitz and Carlsbad, in Bohemia; Baden Baden; Wiesbaden and Seltzers, in Nassau, which are annually visited by thousands from all parts of Europe, for the benefit of the waters, or merely for pleasure.

Q. What is the German confederacy?

A. The union of all the states for common defence, whose representatives meet at Frankfort on the Maine. At this meeting, which is called the Diet, all matters of importance relating to Germany are discussed, Austria presiding.

Q. Can you relate any characteristics of the Germans?

A. They are grave, frank, and hospitable. They have also a character for honesty, industry, and perseverance.

AUSTRIA.

Q. What are the boundaries of Austria?

A. Saxony, and other German states on the north and west; Russia on the east; Turkey and the Adriatic on the south.

Q. What does the Austrian empire consist of?

A. Austria Proper, Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, Venetia, and the mountainous districts of Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, and the Tyrol.

Q. Where is the Archduchy of Austria?

A. In the south-eastern part of Germany; comprising a beautiful territory watered by the Danube, and several mountainous districts, which supply valuable minerals, particularly mercury.¹

¹ There is no country of Europe so rich in minerals as Austria—gold chiefly in Hungary and Transylvania; silver in Hungary and Bohemia; quicksilver in Carniola and Carinthia; rock-salt in Galicia; iron, native steel, and coal very generally diffused; and many of the mines, still yielding abundance, have been worked from the times of the Romans.

Q. Describe the relative situations of the other divisions.

A. Bohémia is a mountainous country, south of Saxony; Morávia, containing Galic'ia, is east of Bohémia, and south of Poland; Hungary is the south-eastern portion, and contains numerous swamps.

Q. Describe the appearance of the country?

A. Austria is in many parts very hilly; Bohemia is encircled by mountains in a triangular form. The most level parts are Hungary and the Archduchy.

Q. What is the description of the soil?

A. The soil of Austria is peculiarly productive, and in most parts well cultivated. There are nevertheless very large forests among the Carpathian mountains, and in the higher parts of Hungary.

Q. What are the extent and population of Austria?

A. It contains about 300,000 square miles; and a population of 36 millions.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Vien'na,¹ the capital, on the south-west side of the river Danube; Triéste, on the Adriatic,—the only sea-port of this large and powerful empire; Prague, in Bohémiay; Presburg, in Hungary; Venice, in Austrian Italy. (See Italy.)

Q. What is the commerce of Austria?

A. From the very little coast line she has Austria is not, nor is likely to become, a commercial country. She exports, however, metals, silks, and wool.

Q. What are the religion and government of Austria?

A. The prevailing religion is the Roman Catholic. but there are Protestants in all parts of the empire.

¹ The Imperial Library at Vienna contains 400,000 books, and 2,000 manuscripts. The Danube is called Upper Danube as far as Vienna, then through Hungary, the Middle Danube, afterwards through Turkey to the Black Sea, the Lower Danube.

The form of government is absolute monarchy ; but the laws vary according to the different provinces.

Q. What are the characteristics of the Austrians ?

A. They are a brave and polished people, though not generally so well educated as in many other parts of Europe.

TURKEY.

Q. In what part of Europe is Turkey ?

A. Turkey is a very large empire, having possessions in Europe, Asia, and Africa ; but European Turkey is bounded on the north by Austria and Russia ; and on the south by Greece, the Archipel'ago (Ark-e-pel-a-go), and the Sea of Mar'mora ; on the west by the Adriatic ; and on the east by the Black Sea.

Q. What are the divisions of this country ?

A. Turkey is divided into provinces, the chief of which are Roumélie, containing the ancient Thes'saly, Macedónia, and Thrácia ; Bulgária, and Moldávia and Walláchia (Wal-lay-ke-ah).

Q. Is European Turkey a fertile country ?

A. The soil of Turkey is exceedingly fertile, and produces rich fruits, though along the banks of the Danube it is swampy ; but agriculture is greatly neglected.

Q. What are the extent and population of this portion of the Turkish empire ?

A. It contains 200,000 square miles, and 18 millions of inhabitants, of whom a great number are Greeks, Armenians, and Jews.

Q. What are the chief articles of trade ?

A. The trade of Turkey, which is chiefly carried on by foreigners, is in fine wool, silks, fruits, and raw cotton.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Constantinóple the capital ; very beautifully

situated on the straits of the Bosphorus, which unite the Sea of Mar'mora with the Black Sea ; Adrianóple, Saloníca, Nicopólis, and Belgráde.

Q. Does not Turkey possess many islands ?

A. Yes : the chief of which are Can'dia (Crete), Cy'prus, and Rhódes, in the Mediterranean Sea ; Lem'nos, Les'bos, Scío, Sámos, and Pat'mos, off the eastern coast of Asia Minor.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. The Turkish religion is the Mahometan, though the greater portion of the inhabitants are Christians or Jews. The sovereign, called the Sultan, or Grand Seignior, is a despotic monarch, subject only to the laws of the Koran,—the Bible of the Mahometan.

Q. Can you give me any account of the people ?

A. The Turks are generally poor ; they are said to be haughty, courageous, and cruel ; but faithful to their word. They seldom use a knife and fork, as they feed with their fingers, nor do they use chairs, but recline upon sofas or cushions.

GREECE.

Q. Where is Greece ?

A. Greece is a country very celebrated in ancient history, south of Turkey, comprehending Continental Greece, the Mórea, or Peloponnésus, (which is united to Continental Greece by the Isthmus of Corinth,) and several islands in the Grecian Archipel'ago.

Q. Was not Greece for a long time greatly oppressed ?

A. The interesting people of this portion of Europe were for some centuries held in slavery by the Turks, till in 1822 they rose to recover their ancient independence.

Q. How did they gain their independence ?

A. The struggle lasted ten years, and was at last terminated by the intervention of the allied powers of England, France, and Russia.

Q. Describe the climate and appearance of Greece ?

A. Greece in the plains is very hot, but the country being diversified by hills renders the climate in general very agreeable.

Q. Which are the chief towns of modern Greece ?

A. Athens, the capital ;¹ Missolon'ghi, in continental Greece ; Tripolit'za, Navarino, (Nav-ar-e-no),² Patras, and Corinth, in the peninsula.

Q. Do you know the names of the islands forming the third division of the kingdom ?

A. Negropont (Æubéa) which is said to contain between 20 and 30 thousand inhabitants ; the Cyc'lades, the chief of which are Syra, the most flourishing island of Greece, and Naxos ; the Spórades, the chief of which are Hýdra, Egína (E-ge-nah),³ Sal'amis and Páros, famed for its fine marble.

Q. What is the population of Greece ?

A. The amount of population is very uncertain, it may probably be about 800,000.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. The religion is the Greek form of the Christian religion, which allows image worship and other superstitious practices, but does not acknowledge the Pope as the head. The government is a constitutional monarchy.⁴

Q. What is the Greek character ?

A. The Greeks are an active and intelligent people.

¹ The most splendid ruins of Athens are those of the Parthenon, or Temple of Minerva, the Temple of Bacchus, the Temple of Theseus, and the Temple of Jupiter Olympus.

² The Turkish fleet was defeated with great loss at Navarino, by the combined fleets of England, France, and Russia.

³ Money was first coined in Egína.

⁴ The kingdom of Greece was offered to Prince Leopold of Belgium, and he having refused to accept it, it was conferred on Otho of Bavaria, who ascended the throne January, 1833.

SEVEN ISLES.

Q. Where is the republic of the Seven Isles ?

A. The Seven Islands are in the Ionian Sea, west of Greece, and form a republic under the protection of Great Britain, which appoints the Governor or High Commissioner.

Q. Do you know their names ?

A. Corfu, Cephalonía, Sante Maura, Ithaca, Cerigo and Paxo. They are very fertile, producing grapes and currants in great abundance. Zante produces the finest peaches in the world.

Q. What is the population ?

A. The whole population is about 200,000.

ASIA.

Q. In what part of the globe is Asia ?

A. Asia, the largest of the quarters of the globe, lies to the east of Europe and Africa, and is bounded by the Arctic Ocean on the north, by the Indian Ocean on the south, by the Pacific Ocean on the east, and by Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Red Sea on the west, and is joined to Africa by the isthmus of Suez.¹

Q. Is not the coast of Asia very uneven ?

A. Yes ; it is split into numerous large peninsulas. The largest along the southern coast are Arabia, the peninsula of Hindoostan,¹ that of Malac'ca, and Coch'in China (Kotsh-in China); and along the eastern coast are Coréa and Kamschat'ka (Kams-tshat-ka).²

Q. What are the extent and population of Asia ?

¹ All the land on the globe is very nearly united, for Bóhring's Straits which separates Asia from America are only 36 miles across, and in winter may be crossed upon the ice.

² Observe that all the peninsulas on the whole globe, with very few exceptions,—for example, Jutland and Yúcatan—point southward.

A. The area of Asia is five times that of Europe, and it contains a population of 750 millions.

Q. What are the general features of this vast continent ?

A. The whole of central Asia is traversed by several mountain systems, on whose summits are very extensive level tracts. The lowlands or plains occupy countries of vast extent, both in the north and along the sea.

Q. By what names are these mountains known ?

A. The chief mountains of Asia are the Altai, the Himalay'a, the Taurus and Caúcasus, the Syrian mountains, and the Ghaut mountains.

Q. Where are the Altai mountains ?

A. The Altai mountains, very rich in gold, silver, copper, and iron, are a vast range which branches off from the central table land, and runs through Mongólia and Sibéria to the eastern extremity of the continent. The greatest height is 11,000 feet above the sea.

Q. In what part of Asia are the Himalay'a mountains ?

A. The Himalay'a chain, on the southern side of the elevated region of Asia, runs between Thibet and Hindoostan', and are the highest in the world ; the greatest elevation being 28,000 feet.¹

Q. Where are the mountains of Taurus and Caúcasus ?

A. The Taurus range runs from Persia, through Asia Minor, to which chain belongs Ararat', 17,000 feet high. Caúcasus is a chain of mountains between the Black Sea and Cas'pian Sea.

Q. Which are the chief Syrian mountains ?

¹ The Andes of South America were, till lately, considered to contain the highest point on the globe. Himalaya means "dwelling of snow." This Indian Alpine region is in length 1,300 miles, and would cover, in Europe, all the countries between the Pyrenees and Sea of Azov. Its breadth is from 250 to 350 miles. The Himalaya mountains are twice as long and thrice as broad as the Alps. The Alps of Europe occupy an area of about 130,000 square miles; but the Himalaya from 500,000 to 600,000 miles.

A. Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, which run nearly parallel to each other, the greatest height being 9,500 feet. Mount Carmel¹ and Mount Her'mon in Pal'estine belong to this chain.

LAKES, RIVERS, &c.

Q. Are there any considerable lakes in Asia?

A. Yes; Asia contains the largest lakes in the world; namely, the Cas'pian Sea; Lake A'ral; Lake Baikal; the Dead Sea, or Lake Asphaltites (As-fal-ti-tes); and several others in Mong'olia and Thib'et.

Q. Describe the Cas'pian and Lake A'ral.

A. The Cas'pian Sea and Lake A'ral are both in Independent Tartary; the former, north of Persia, is 900 miles long and about 200 broad; the latter, in the interior of the country, covers an area of 9000 square miles.

Q. Where is Lake Baikal?

A. In the southern part of Sib'eria. It is about 400 miles long and between 30 and 40 broad, and abounds in fish.

Q. What is the history of Lake Asphaltites?

A. Lake Asphaltites, or the Dead Sea, is supposed to cover the site of the four cities which were destroyed by fire from heaven, recorded in the 29th chapter of Deuteronomy. It is 70 miles long, and about 10 or 15 broad.

Q. What peculiarity belongs to these lakes?

A. They are all salt-water lakes, which is a striking characteristic of the Asiatic lakes: but, besides those mentioned, there are very many others in the central table land.

Q. Are not the rivers of this quarter of the globe very great?

¹ Here the prophet Eljah slew the worshippers of Baal.—1 Kings xviii. 19-40.

A. Yes; the largest of them are the O'by, Yenes'ei, Léna, Amur, Hoang Hó, Yantse Kíang, May'kaung, Irawad'di, Burrampoótre, Gan'ges, In'dus, Tigris, and Euphrátes.

Q. Where are the three first?

A. The O'by, which is joined by the Ir'tish, the Yenes'ei, and the Léna, all run from the Altai mountains, through Sibéria northward to the Arctic Ocean. They run respectively 2,000, 2,500 and 2,000 miles.

Q. Tell me the course and length of the A'mur or Saghálien?

A. The A'mur runs eastward through Mongólia into the gulf of Saghálien. It is 1,900 miles long.

Q. Describe the Chinese rivers?

A. The Hoang Hó and Yantse Kíang (called by the Chinese "Sons of Ocean,") rise on the eastern side of the great mountain region, and run through Thibet and China Proper into the Pacific Ocean. The former has a course of upwards of 2,000 miles, and the latter nearly 3,000.

Q. What are the course and length of the May'kaung and Irawad'di?

A. The May'kaung and Irawad'di rise among the mountains of Thib'et, and run in a southern direction through the eastern peninsula of India; the May'kaung or Cambódia into the Chinese Sea; the Irawad'di into the Bay of Bengal. They are each about 2,000 miles long.

Q. Describe the Burrampoótre and the Ganges.

A. The Burrampoótre has a very winding course of nearly 2,000 miles, and runs into the Bay of Bengal. The Ganges rises in the Himalay'a mountains, and runs in a south-eastern direction to the Bay of Bengal, a course of 1,800 miles.¹

¹ The Ganges is held by the Hindoos to be a sacred river, and not a few of those poor deluded people have drowned themselves or their children in its waters, as offerings to their deities. It begins to form a delta 200 miles from the sea, and the waters it pours down are immense.

Q. Where is the source of the Indus ?

A. The Indus rises in the high table-land of Thib'et, runs through Cabúl (Kaw-bool) and Western Hindoostan', into the Arabian Sea. Its length is about 1,500 miles.

Q. Describe the Tígris and the Euphrátes.

A. The Tígris rises in the mountain range of Taurus, and runs parallel to the Euphrátes, which rises near Mount Árarat', and after having united, discharge their waters into the Persian Gulf. Their length is 1,900 miles.

DIVISIONS OF ASIA.

Q. What are the political divisions of Asia ?

A. Asia is divided into Russia ; China, including Mongólia and Thib'et ; India beyond the Ganges ; Hindoostan' ; Independent Tartary ; Persia ; Afghanistan' ; Arabia ; and Turkey in Asia.

RUSSIA.

Q. What are the boundaries of Asiatic Russia ?

A. Asiatic Russia extends from the Urálian mountains on the west, to Béhring's Straits, which separate it from North America, on the east ; and from the Arctic Ocean on the north, to Mongólia on the south.

Q. What are the divisions of this extensive country ?

A. Asiatic Russia includes Sibéria and the countries bordering on Independent Tartary and the Cas'pian Sea ; namely, Astrachan', Geor'gia, and Circas'sia. Sibéria is subdivided into two governments, Irkútsk (Ir-kootsk) in the east, and Tobolsk' (To-bosk) in the west.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Siberia, which is the most northern country of Asia, is a very level and sterile country, in which

are large plains and very extensive forests. It is extremely cold ; but in the southern parts the soil is fertile.¹

Q. What are the extent and population of Asiatic Russia ?

A. Its length is more than 4,000 miles, and its breadth 1,500 ; so that when it is midday or noon in the western parts of Sibéria, it is midnight to the inhabitants of the eastern extremity. The population is not more than two or three millions.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Irkútsk, the capital, and Tobols'k, the chief commercial town in Sibéria ; Astrachan' on the Caspian Sea ; and Tiflis, the capital of Geor'gia.

Q. Who are the inhabitants of Asiatic Russia ?

A. It is inhabited by various tribes, the chief of which are Os'tiacks, Samoi'ades, and Kamt'schadales, in the northern parts ; Cossacks, Cal'mucks, and Circas'sians,—who are famed for their beauty and their bravery,—in the southern parts.

Q. What are the habits of the people ?

A. The tribes of the northern parts wander about with their herds. The men chiefly employ themselves in hunting the numerous beasts and game that roam through the vast forests.

Q. What articles of commerce does Sibéria supply ?

A. The furs of animals in great quantities—ermine, sable, fox, beaver, &c.—metals, and precious stones. The trade is chiefly carried on at fairs held in the winter, because there are hardly any roads, and merchandise has to be brought in sledges.

Q. What islands belong to Asiatic Russia ?

¹ Sibéria is one of the most desolate countries in the world, and is used by the Russian Government as a place of banishment for State offenders. Its mines in the Ural and Altai mountains are immensely wealthy, and to these the greatest criminals are doomed. It is a curious fact, that along the banks of the great rivers of Sibéria especially are found fossil remains of huge elephants, and other animals, whose conformation points to a different clime from that in which they are now found.

A. The Kúriles, south of Kamschat'ka, and the Aleútian isles between that peninsula and America.

THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

Q. Is not the Chinese a very ancient empire ?

A. Yes ; it has probably existed nearly four thousand years. The Chinese pretend that it existed thousand of years before the Flood, and call it the Celestial Empire.

Q. What does the Chinese empire comprehend ?

A. China Proper, Chinese Tartary or Mongólia, and Manchoória, Thib'et, and the isles of Formósa and Haínan in the Chinese Sea. The peninsula of Coréa is also tributary to China.

Q. Can you describe the relative situation of Mongólia ?

A. Mongólia lies between Sibéria on the north, and Thib'et and China Proper on the south, and is nearly 4,000 miles long, and 1,300 from the confines of Sibéria to the northern borders of Thib'et.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Mongólia is in many parts very mountainous, with immense deserts, the most extensive of which is that of Cobi, or Shamo,¹ on the greatest table-land in the world.

Q. Where is Manchoória ?

A. Manchoória, or the country of the Manchoó Tartars, is a wild mountainous country eastward of Mongólia and northward of China Proper, and in which the Chinese emperors used to be buried.

Q. Give an account of the inhabitants of Mongólia ?

A. The Mongólians, or Mon'guls, are a nomadic race, possessing numerous herds of camels and horses. The women perform the most laborious

¹ Its width is about 300 or 400 miles, and its length perhaps not less than 1,800 miles. Here the winter lasts nine months, and in the nights of July and August it frequently snows and freezes.

occupations, whilst the men employ themselves in hunting the numerous wild beasts with which the country abounds. In religion some are Mahometans and some idolaters.

Q. Where is China Proper ?

A. It is bounded by Mongólia on the north, by the Chinese Sea and the eastern peninsula of India on the south, Thib'et on the west, and the North Pacific Ocean on the east.

Q. Can you describe the country ?

A. China is a somewhat flat country, well watered, and highly cultivated. The hill sides are also laid out in terraces, and thus it is rendered exceedingly productive.

Q. What are the extent and population of China Proper ?

A. China contains nearly 3,000,000 square miles, and is more numerously populated than any other country. The number of inhabitants is not accurately known, but it is estimated at 400 millions.

Q. Which are the principal cities ?

A. Pekin', the capital,¹ containing upwards of a million inhabitants ; Nankin', still larger ; and the five ports to which Europeans are to be allowed (1859) to trade—Canton', Amoy', Foochow', Ningpó, and Shanghai.

Q. What is the chief export of China ?

A. Though its manufactures are very various and ingenious, yet its foreign trade is almost limited to that of tea,² which is exported in great quantities to all parts of the world,—porcelain, silk, lacquered goods, &c.

Q. What is their religion and form of government ?

¹ The Great Wall, built more than 2000 years ago, is one of the most stupendous works of man, being 1500 miles long, 25 feet high, and 24 broad ; and is carried over lofty mountains, and across deep valleys, and in some places it is doubled and trebled. It is north of Pekin, and was built to oppose the incursions of the Tartars.

² About 60,000,000 lbs. of Tea is annually exported.

A. The Chinese are polytheists; that is, they have a great number of gods, who preside over cities, rivers, and mountains. The sovereign is called Emperor, and his power is absolute; but the provinces are entirely governed by civil officers, called mandarins.

Q. What is the Chinese character?

A. The Chinese are ingenious,¹ of mild dispositions, and industrious; but these virtues are accompanied by the vices of lying and deceit. In their eating they regard dogs, rats, and mice as delicacies, though they eat little animal food besides, except the flesh of the pig.

Q. What is the relative situation of Thib'et?

A. Thib'et is situated between Mongólia on the north, and Hindoostan' on the south. It is a very mountainous country, being the highest part of the great table-land, with numerous valleys and lakes; and the climate is peculiarly bleak and cold.

Q. What is the extent of Thib'et?

A. It is about 1,500 miles long, and 500 broad.

Q. Which is the chief town?

A. Lassa; a few miles from which is the residence of the Grand Lama, or Spiritual Sovereign. It is a palace of vast extent, containing, it is said, 10,000 apartments, tenanted by the priests, or Lamas.²

INDIA BEYOND THE GANGES.

Q. In what part of Asia is India beyond the Ganges?

A. India beyond the Ganges, or the eastern peninsula of India, is situated in the south-eastern

¹ The art of Printing was known to the Chinese 500 years before it was invented in Europe. The invention of gunpowder, and the mariner's compass, is referred by them to a remote period.

² Thibet has been called the Switzerland of Asia. It exports, to Cashmere chiefly, a peculiar kind of goat's hair, which is there made into shawls, which are much prized.

part of Asia, south of China, and east of Hindoostan'.

Q. What are the divisions of the country ?

A. The kingdom of Ton'quin, including Tonquin in the north, Coch'in China in the south-east, and Cambodia in the south ; Siam ; the peninsula of Malac'ca ; Birmah' ; and the British territory.

Q. Describe the empire of Ton'quin (Ton-keen) or An'nam.

A. Ton'quin is separated from Canton' by a ridge of mountains, and produces tea of excellent quality. Its inhabitants amount to twenty millions, who are distinguished for their hospitality and honesty.

Q. Describe the kingdom of Siam.

A. Siam' is the southern portion of the peninsula, and contains a population of four millions. It is 500 miles long and 200 broad. The Siamese are a very ingenious people, and pay great respect to old age, and it is death to mention the name of their sovereign.

Q. Where is Malac'ca ?

A. Malac'ca is a peninsula in the most southern part of Asia. It is separated from Sumátra (Sumah-tra) by the Straits of Malac'ca. The inhabitants, called Malays, are daring and cruel pirates.¹

Q. Can you describe the Birmese empire ?

A. Birmah' is in the interior of the eastern peninsula, and is divided into A'va, Pégu, and Laos. It is rich in minerals—gold, silver, rubies, sapphires, and amethysts—and contains a population of four millions.

Q. What is the Birmese character ?

A. The Birmese are inquisitive and irascible, and in war very ferocious ; and, like the Siamese, they are entirely regarded as the property of their emperor.

¹ Much has been done towards the suppression of piracy in the Chinese Sea, with which the name of Rajah Brooke is honourably connected.

Q. Describe the British territory.

A. It occupies the western part of the peninsula, and contains As'sam,¹ Ar'racan, and Tenas'serim, as well as part of Prince of Wales's island.

Q. What are the chief exports of India beyond the Ganges ?

A. Sugar, tobacco, indigo, valuable gums, and other tropical productions.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. There are many towns teeming with population. Kesho and Hue, in Ton'quin ; Bangkok,² in Siam ; Sing'apore, in Malac'ca ; A'va, Pegú, and Rangoón, in Bir'mah.

HINDOOSTAN.

Q. Where is Hindoostan' ?

A. Hindoostan', called the western peninsula of India, is a large promontory in the southern part of Asia, which terminates in Cape Com'orin, most of which belongs to the British.

Q. How is Hindoostan divided ?

A. It is divided into four great portions : north-eastern, or Gangetic Hindoostan' ; north-western, or Sindet'ic Hindoostan' ; Central Hindoostan', or the Dec'can ; and Southern Hindoostan'.

Q. What are the divisions of the British territory ?

A. It is divided into three presidencies : Bengal, which comprises all the territory watered by the Ganges ; Madras', including the coast of Coroman'del and Mal'abar ; and Bombay, the smallest of the presidencies, in the west of India.

¹ The growth of tea has been lately attempted in Assam, and the result is said to be promising.

² Bangkok may be called a floating city ; for, being situated on the river Me'nai, its houses are mostly built on piles, or are actually floated up and down by the changing tides.

Q. What parts of Hindoostan' are not under British rule?

A. Népaul, among the Himalayah Mountains, and a portion of the Deccan, which are under independent chiefs; Pondich'erry, belonging to the French, and Tranquebar' to the Dutch, on the Coromandel Coast; and G6a, on the Mal'abar Coast, belonging to the Portuguese.

Q. What is the natural geography of Hindoostan'?

A. It is generally speaking a flat country, but containing extensive mountain systems, with numerous streams; the soil is extremely fertile, and the climate hot but healthy.

Q. What are the extent and population?

A. The extent is estimated at 1,300,000 square miles, and the population at 130 millions, of which 80 millions are under British government.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Calcut'ta,¹ Del'hi, Allahabad (Alla-ah-bad), and Lucknow, in the first division; Lah6re, Cash'mere,² Tat'ta, in Sindetic Hindoostan'; Bombay', Súrât, and Jug'gernaut, in the third division; Madras and Seringapatam', in the fourth.

Q. What are the chief articles of commerce?

A. Muslins and calicoes, silk, spices, drugs, indigo, cotton, diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones, which are found in various parts of Hindoostan'.³

Q. What is the religion of the Hindoos?

A. It is mostly Brahminism, connected with which are many cruel practices — self-immolation, Juggernaut, &c. Their priests are called Brah-

¹ The Black-hole at Calcutta, into which 146 English were thrust by Suraja Dowlah, an Indian chief, is only 18 feet square, with but one small hole to admit air. Only 23 of these wretched men were found alive in the morning.

² Cashmere is in the Punjab (country of five rivers), called also the Sikh territory.

³ Opium is largely cultivated in India, and exported in great quantities to China.

mins, the sacred writings Vedas, and their temples Pagodas.

Q. What is meant by caste in India ?

A. The Hindoo population (*not the Sikh*) is divided into four classes, and persons born in one class can by no means change into another, nor intermarry with one of another caste. The castes are the Brahmins, or priests ; the Kshetrys, or soldiers ; the Vaisyas, or traders and farmers ; and the Sudras, or artisans and labourers.

Q. What is the name of the island south of India ?

A. Ceylon ; it is separated from the main land by Palk's Straits, and is 280 miles long and 180 broad. The island produces cinnamon, pepper, and other spices ; and north of the island is the most famous pearl-fishery in the world.

INDEPENDENT TARTARY, OR TURKESTAN'.

Q. What are the boundaries of Independent Tartary ?

A. It is bounded on the north by Russia ; on the south by Persia and Afghanistan' ; on the west by the Caspian Sea ; and on the east by Chinese Tartary.

Q. What are its divisions ?

A. Turkestan', Turcoma'nia, Kharasm' (Kharahm), and Great Buchária. The chief cities are Samarcand', Bok'hara, and Khiéva, a great slave market.

Q. Describe the habits of the Tartars.

A. The Tartars, who are lawless hordes, have no fixed abode, but remove from place to place with their numerous horses and cattle. The country being very fertile, the grass sometimes exceeds the height of a man.

PERSIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

Q. What are the boundaries of Persia ?

A. Persia Proper is surrounded by Tartary and the Caspian Sea on the north ; by the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf on the south ; by Afghanistan on the east ; and by Asiatic Turkey on the west.

Q. Describe Persia Proper ?

A. It is a hilly country ; the soil is, generally speaking, unproductive, being greatly impregnated with salt ;¹ but the northern part yields excellent wheat. The fruits of Persia are also very fine,—figs, apricots, pomegranates, &c.

Q. In what articles does Persia chiefly trade ?

A. Her commerce is chiefly carried on by means of caravans, and includes silks, carpets, pearls, otto of roses, and opium.

Q. Which are the chief cities ?

A. Tehéran, the capital ; Ispahan', the former capital ; Shiraz, and Gombroon on the Gulf of Ormus.

Q. What is the relative situation of Afghanistan' ?

A. Afghanistan', or Cabul', is situated between Persia Proper and Hindoostan', and south of Tartary.

Q. What are the divisions of Afghanistan' ?

A. Afghanistan', which is a very mountainous country, is divided into four principalities ; Cabul', which contains the capital of the same name, and Ghiz'ni, a very strong fortress ; Pesh'awur ; Candahar' ; and Hérat.

Q. Can you give any further account of Afghanistan' ?

A. Between the ridges of mountains are many fertile valleys, abounding in rich pasturage. Travellers from India to Bagdad usually go through

¹ What is called the Great Salt Desert is 350 miles long, and 200 broad.

Afghanistan', and are frequently plundered by the lawless people.

Q. There is another country which once formed part of Persia.

A. Yes; Beloóchistan', southward of Afghanistan', which contains a million and a half of people, who, like the wandering Arabs of the desert, are addicted to plunder and cruelty. Their chief town is Kelat.

Q. What is the population of Persia?

A. Persia Proper contains nine millions, and Afghanistan' about four millions,

Q. What is the religion of Persia?

A. The religion of the Persians is the Mahometan; but, on account of their rejecting some of the greatest absurdities of the Koran, they are regarded by other Mahometans as heretics: and there are still some in Persia who worship the sun, or Baal.

Q. What is the form of government?

A. In Persia Proper it is a despotic monarchy, the sovereign being called Shah; but in Afghanistan' the people are nominally under chiefs of the respective provinces.

Q. What is the Persian character?

A. The Persians are intelligent and polite, in consequence of which they have been called the French of the East; but they are also avaricious and cruel. The Afghans, too, are remarkable for their bravery.

ARABIA.

Q. What is the situation of Arábia?

A. Arábia is a large peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf in the south-western part of Asia, and having Palestine on the north.

Q. What are its divisions?

A. It is now divided into Hed'jez, or Arábia Petræ'a, or Stony; Yémen, or Arabia Felix, or the

blessed ; Had'ramaut in the southern part ; Om'-man and Lach'sa, in the south-eastern part ; and Ned'jez, or Arabia Deser'ta, the interior.

Q. What is the natural geography of Arabia ?

A. Arabia is one great desert, with few fertile spots, called Oáses. The sands of this great desert being carried by violent winds are sometimes as fatal to caravans as a tempest at sea is to sailors.

Q. What are the chief productions of Arabia ?

A. Yémen produces the best coffee (Mocha), and the hills of Had'ramaut are celebrated for frankincence, myrrh, gums, and drugs.¹

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. It is about 1400 miles in its greatest length, and 1200 from east to west ; and is supposed to contain about ten millions of people, though very little is known of the interior.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Mec'ca and Medína (Med-e-nah) in Hed'jez ; Sána, A'den (packet station), and Mocha in Yémen ; and Mus'cat in Om'man.

Q. What circumstance has given fame to Mec'ca ?

A. The false prophet Mahomet was born at Mec'ca, A.D. 569, and for some years was occupied as a merchant between Arabia and Syria. At Mec'ca, also, there is his mosque, or temple, of great magnificence, *said* to have been built by Abraham.

Q. Is not Medína also much venerated by Mahometans ?

A. At Medína Mahomet was buried, the spot being covered by a stately mosque supported on 400 pillars, and supplied with 300 silver lamps kept continually burning. The coffin of Mahomet is covered with cloth of gold under a splendid canopy of silver issue.²

¹ The most prolific pearl bank in the world is in the Persian Gulf, off the Arabian coast.

² Not fewer than 70,000 pilgrims, sometimes even more than 100,000, arrive at Mecca annually, and proceed on to Medina. This

Q. In what part of Arabia are Mount Sinai and Horeb?

A. In Arabia Petræa,¹ between the Gulf of Ak'aba and Suez. On Hóreb Moses saw the burning bush; and on Sinai he received the two tables of the Ten Commandments.

Q. What is the religion of the Arabs?

A. The religion of the Arabs is Mahometanism.

Q. What are some of the characteristics of the Arabs?

A. The Arabs of the desert, called Bedouins (Be-doo-ins), live in tents, which they remove from place to place with their camels and horses, which form their wealth. They are remarkable for their hospitality and bravery, but many of them live by plundering the caravans, and are expert in the use of arms and horsemanship.

ASIATIC TURKEY.

Q. What are the boundaries of Asiatic Turkey?

A. The Black Sea and the Sea of Mar'mora on the north; Arabia on the south; the Grecian Archipelago (Ark-e-pel-a-go) and the Levant² on the west; and Persia on the east.

Q. What countries does Asiatic Turkey comprehend?

A. Asia Minor; Syr'ia; Pal'estine; Arménia; Diarbeck; Kurdistan', the ancient Assyria; and Irac Ar'abi, the ancient Mesopotamia.

Q. Describe the country.

A. The country is in general mountainous, but

pilgrimage every good Mussulman must undertake at least once in his life, or find a substitute. They travel chiefly in great companies (caravans), for mutual protection.

¹ In Arabia Petræa was the wilderness in which the Israelites wandered for forty years in their exodus from Egypt.

² The eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea is called the Levant, from *lever*, Fr., to rise.

has numerous large and verdant plains, and south of the Black Sea there are also large forests. The climate is considered very salubrious, the heat being moderated by mountain breezes.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. From the Archipel'ago to the confines of Persia is about 1,000 miles ; and from the Black Sea to Arabia is about 750. The population is about 10 millions, comprising Turks, Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Smyr'na and Tokat in Asia Minor ; Alep'po, Acre, An'tioch, and Damas'cus, in Syria ; Jerusalem, the ancient capital of Judea, in Pal'estine ; Trébison'd, in Arménia ; Mosul, in Diar'beck ; Bag'dad, Bas'sora, and Hil'lah, in I'rak-Ar'abi.¹

Q. What are the chief articles of commerce of this country ?

A. The commerce of this part of the world is very considerable in carpets, silks, the fine Turkey rhubarb, oil, fruits, and drugs.

Q. Give some further account of Palestine.

A. Palestine, the country of the Philistines, is known in Scripture by many other names,—the Holy Land, as being sacred to the people of God ; Land of Israel, from the posterity of Jacob having settled there ; Canaan, from its ancient possessor after the confusion of Babel ; Land of promise, having been promised by God to Abraham, &c. It is situated southward of Syria and northward of

¹ Near to Mosul are the ruins of Nineveh, said to have been 60 miles in circumference. The walls were 100 feet high, and so thick that three chariots might go on them abreast. Near Bagdad are the ruins of the Tower of Babel, built by Nimrod. Near Hillah are the ruins of Babylon, the most ancient city in the world ; in its splendour it formed a square, each side of which was 15 miles long. There were 100 gates of solid brass, 25 on each side ; from which ran streets, which intersected one another, thus dividing the city into squares. Damascus, is the most ancient city in the world, and famed for the manufacture of sword-blades and damask, which derives its name from the place.

Arabia, and has the Mediteranean, called in Scripture the Great Sea, on the West.

Q. How was the country divided in the time of Our Lord ?

A. Judea was its southern division, Galilee the part bordering on to Syria, and Samaria the middle—whilst the river Jordan running from the mountains of Lebanon through the sea of Galilee, or Tiberius, or Lake of Gennesareth, to the Dead Sea, separated it from the countries beyond Jordan—Persia and Idumæa.

ASIATIC ISLES.

Q. Name the Asiatic Islands belonging to Turkey.

A. Cyprus and Rhodes in the Levant', Scio and Mytiléne and many others off the Western shores of Asia Minor.

Q. Are not the Asiatic Isles very numerous ?

A. Yes ; besides those already mentioned, there is an almost continuous line of islands running from the peninsula of Kamschat'ka southward to Australia, viz. : the Kúrule Islands, Japan Isles, the Philippines, Loo Choo Isles, the Eastern Archipelago, including the Moluccas and the isles of Sunda ; Saghálian, belonging to Chinese Tartary ; the Laccadives and Maldives, and Andaman in the Indian Ocean.

Q. Where is the empire of Japan ?

A. The empire of Japan' consists of a number of islands off the north-eastern coast of Asia, the chief of which are Nippon', Sit'kokf, and Kioo'sioo.

Q. What is the climate of these islands ?

A. The heat of summer would be very great, but for the sea breezes. The cold in winter is also very severe. The soil is considered barren, but in no part of the world is agriculture carried to a higher degree of perfection.

Q. Which are the principal towns ?

A. Jed'do, the capital, on the island of Nippon', containing about one million inhabitants; Meéco, the principal manufacturing town of the empire, and the residence of the spiritual emperor ; and Nan-gas'aki, on the island of Kioo'sioo, the only port open to foreigners.

Q. Can you give any account of the people ?

A. The Japanese, though not so strong as Europeans, are well made and stout, of yellowish complexion, and are great admirers of black teeth. They are very ingenious, but use neither tables, beds, nor chairs ; and instead of uncovering their heads, as we do, out of respect, they uncover their feet. Their language, too, is said to be so peculiar, that it is rarely understood by foreigners.

Q. Where are the Philippine islands ?

A. The Philippine islands, a large and fertile group which belongs to Spain, are situated in the Pacific Ocean, north of the East India isles.

Q. Which are the largest of this group of islands ?

A. Luzon, about 500 miles long, which contains the capital, Manill'a ; and Mindanáó.

Q. Where is the Eastern Archipelago ?

A. It is the name given to those very numerous islands between Hindoostan' and Pap'ua, and between the Philippines and Austrália ; the isles of Sunda ; Sumátra, 1,000 miles long ; Java,¹ 600 miles ; Borneo ; Cel'ebes ; and the Moluc'cas.

Q. Mention some of the productions of these isles.

A. They produce the finest spices in the world,—nutmegs, cloves, mace, &c. ; also sago, rice, and sugar ; but the Moluc'cas, which belong to the Dutch, are emphatically called "The Spice Islands."

¹ In Java there is a poisonous valley, which produces almost instant death to every living thing which enters it. The valley is about thirty feet deep ; and in it may be seen skeletons of men, animals, and birds, who are supposed to have entered unaware of the fatal consequences.

AFRICA.

Q. In which hemisphere is Africa ?

A. Africa, the most degraded quarter of the globe, is a very large peninsula in the eastern hemisphere, south of Europe, from which it is separated by the Straits of Gibraltar, and is connected with Asia by the Isthmus of Suez.

Q. What are the boundaries of Africa ?

A. The Mediterranean Sea on the north ; the Southern Ocean on the south ; the Atlantic on the west ; and the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea on the east.

Q. What is the extent of this continent ?

A. Its greatest length from north to south, *i. e.* from Cape Bon to Cape Agulhas is about 5,000 miles ; and its greatest breadth from west to east *i. e.* from Cape Verd to Cape Gardafui (Gard-a-fwe) is not much less. It contains nearly 12 millions of square miles, and upwards of 150 millions of inhabitants.

Q. What is the general feature of Africa ?

A. The most striking feature is its immense deserts, which are said to cover nearly half of its surface. The most remarkable is Sahára (the desert), which extends from the Atlantic Ocean to Egypt, nearly 2,000 miles, and from north to south about 800 miles.

Q. Are there any great mountains in Africa ?

A. Yes ; there are two very extensive ranges. The Atlas mountains, north of the great desert ; and the chain of the Mountains of Kong and of the Moon, which extends from Abyssin'ia across the continent. There are also the Abyssin'ian mountains ; the Table mountains, near the Cape of Good Hope, in the south ; and Lupáta, called the backbone of the world.

RIVERS OF AFRICA.

Q. Which are the principal rivers ?

A. The Nile, the Niger or Jol'iba, the Sen'egal, the Gam'bia, the Con'go or Zayre, the Orange river, the Great Fish River, and the Zambési.

Q. Describe the Nile.

A. The Nile rises in the Mountains of the Moon, and takes a northern course through Abyssin'ia, Núbia, and Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea,—a course of between 2,000 and 3,000 miles. It is the largest African river, and discharges its waters by seven distinct streams, forming the Delta.¹

Q. In what part of Africa is the Niger ?

A. The river Niger rises not far from Siérre Leóne, runs circuitously through Negroland, passes Timbuc'too, and takes a southern course through Benin, into the Gulf of Guinea or Bight of Bénin, after a course of nearly 2,000 miles.

Q. Where are the Sen'egal and the Gambia ?

A. They rise in the interior and flow westward into the Atlantic Ocean, the former north and the latter south of Cape Verd.

Q. Where are the Con'go and the Orange rivers ?

A. They are both in South Africa. The Congo runs through Lower Guin'ea, and the Orange river through the country of the Boshua'nas, into the Atlantic Ocean.

Q. Where are the Great Fish River and the Zambési ?

Q. The Fish River runs into the Atlantic, north of Cape Colony, and the Zambési into the Mozambique Channel (Mo-zam-beek).

¹ So called from its resemblance to the Greek character Δ. A recent traveller asserts that the Nile runs from a large lake, which he calls Lake Victoria, in honour of our Queen, as he considers himself the discoverer of it.

DIVISIONS OF AFRICA.

Q. What are the divisions of Africa ?

A. Egypt, Núbia, and Abyssin'ia, which comprise the north-eastern coast ; the States of Barb'ary along the northern coast ; Sahára, or the Desert, and Negroland, or Nigrit'ia, in the interior ; Western Africa ; Southern Africa ; and the Eastern Coast.

THE NORTH-EASTERN COAST.

Q. What are the boundaries of Egypt ?

A. The Mediterranean Sea on the north ; Nu'bia on the south ; the Desert of Bar'ca, or the Lybian Desert, on the west ; the isthmus of Súez and the Red Sea on the east. The country is divided into Lower, Middle, and Upper Egypt.

Q. Is Egypt a fruitful country ?

A. Yes ; Egypt is situated in a valley, which in the months of August, September, and October, is overflowed by the waters of the Nile, and is thus rendered exceedingly fertile. But the most fertile part is the Delta in Lower Egypt.

Q. What are the chief products of Egypt ?

A. Since rain never falls in Egypt, it is only so far as the waters of the Nile can reach that it is cultivated at all. This valley produces rice, wheat, cotton, sugar, &c. ; and the seed of such as require sowing is scattered on the surface of the water, which, as it subsides, is lodged on the fertile mud, and is then trampled in. Isaiah xxxii. 20.

Q. What are the extent and population of Egypt ?

A. Egypt is 500 miles long, and about 200 broad ; and contains about two millions of inhabitants, composed of Copts, Arabs, Turks, &c.

Q. Which are the principal towns ?

A. Caíro, the capital; Alexan'dria,¹ Roset'ta, Suez, Thèbes,² and Dender'a, where are ruins of most magnificent temples.

Q. Did you ever hear of the pyramids of Egypt?

A. Yes; they are considered one of the wonders of the world, and are said to have been built more than 2,000 years before Christ, and intended as sepulchres for the kings.³

Q. What is the religion and government of Egypt?

A. The prevailing religion is the Mahometan; but there are many Christian Copts, (the original inhabitants), and Europeans, here called Franks. The government is despotic. The present governor holds it in hereditary possession from the Sultan of Turkey.

Q. What is the situation of Núbia?

A. Núbia is situated between Egypt and Abyssin'ia, and contains the kingdoms of Dongóla and Sen'aar, on the banks of the Nile.

Q. Can you describe the country and its inhabitants?

A. The country, excepting the districts just mentioned, is occupied by frightful deserts, and inhabited by miserable and lawless people.

Q. Where is Abyssinia?

A. Abyssinia is south of Núbia, and west of the

¹ Alexandria was built by Alexander the Great about 333 years before the Christian era, and was the capital of Lower Egypt. Here Ptolemy Soter founded one of the most celebrated libraries in the world, which once contained about 700,000 volumes; and which was destroyed in 642.

² Thebes, with its hundred gates, was the ancient capital of Upper Egypt. Memphis, on the Nile, was the capital of Middle Egypt.

³ The largest of these immense buildings are in the neighbourhood of Grand Cairo. One of them, it is said, is more than 600 feet high, and covers 10 acres of ground. Six millions of tons of stone are said to have been consumed, and 100,000 men employed for twenty years in the erection of it. It is thought by some that the children of Israel were employed in this work during their bondage in Egypt. Their shape is that of a square, having a broad base, and contracting towards the top.

Red Sea, and is one of the most mountainous countries of the world, but being well watered is comparatively fertile.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. From north to south it is about 700 miles. The population is probably two or three millions of some of the most barbarous savages in the world. The Abyssinians profess Christianity, but it is of a very degraded kind.¹

Q. Which are the chief places ?

A. Gondar, Ax'am, and Dix'an, which is inhabited by Moors, who are the chief traders in slaves, ivory, and gold.

BARBARY.

Q. Where are the States of Barbary ?

A. The States of Barbary extend along the northern coast from Egypt to the Atlantic—which is the most fertile part of Africa—and include Moroc'co, Algiers, Túnis, Trip'oli, Barca or Lyb'ia, and Fezzan.

Q. What is the relative situation of the empire of Moroc'co ?

A. The empire of Moroc'co is situated north of the Atlas mountains, and west of Algiers. It is about 600 miles long, and 260 broad. It is the most fertile part of Barbary, in some parts yielding three crops a year.

Q. What are the inhabitants called ?

A. Moors : who carry on an extensive trade in morocco leather, cochineal, indigo, ostrich feathers, and ivory. There are also a great number of Jews.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Moroc'co, Fez—one of the largest African cities,

¹ The Gallas on the south, and the Shangallas on the north, are the greatest savages imaginable, adorning their naked bodies with the entrails of animals, devouring the flesh raw, and drinking the blood whilst yet warm.

containing 700 mosques of considerable beauty—Mogado're, Tan'gier, and Tafilat, famous for dates.

Q. What is the religion and government?

A. The religion is Mahometanism. The emperor's power is absolute; and he often exercises great cruelty.

What is the situation of Algiers?

A. Algiers extends from Fez on the west, to Tunis on the east, a length of about 500 miles—the breadth in some places does not exceed 40—and it contains about two millions of inhabitants.

Q. Do you know to whom it now belongs?

A. Algiers was for a long time under the protection of the Sultan or Grand Séignior; but its inhabitants having rendered themselves notorious as reckless, cruel pirates, they were vigorously checked by the English, Americans, and French; and in 1830 the French took possession of the country, and have since retained it.

Q. Where is Tunis?

A. Tunis¹ is situated between Algiers and Tripoli, and is under the protection of the Turks. It is about 200 miles long and 150 broad, and has a population of about 1½ million, who are a mixture of Moors, Turks, Arabs, and Jews.

Q. Where are Tripoli and Barca?

A. Tripoli and Barca, the ancient Lyb'ia, lie between Tunis and Egypt, a length of about 700 miles, and are not so fertile as the other states. They are subject to Turkey, and are inhabited in the southern parts by wandering Arabs.

Q. Where is Fez'zan?

A. It is a large oasis to the south of Barca, and is the general rendezvous of all the caravans before setting out for the desert. Moorzoúk, its capital, is a considerable town.

¹ Tunis stands near the site of the ancient Carthage, and is now a place of considerable trade.

SAHARA AND WESTERN AFRICA.

Q. Where is Sahára ?

A. Sahára, or the Desert, is south of Barbary, 2,000 miles long and 800 broad. Here the sands, raised by violent winds, are carried along like a storm at sea, and are often quite as fatal to travellers as are violent storms to sailors.

Q. How is travelling effected over this great desert ?

A. Travellers go in companies or caravans, consisting of thousands of camels, horses, and mules ; and it not unfrequently happens that hundreds die on the journey from exhaustion or the terrible hot wind called the Simoóm.

Q. Who are the tribes inhabiting the desert ?

A. The most powerful are the Tibboós and the Tuaricks.

Q. What are the divisions of Western Africa ?

A. Senegam'bia, or the territory about the rivers Sen'egal and Gambia ; Upper Guin'ea, which contains Sier'ra Leóne and Liberia ; the Grain Coast, the Ivory Coast, the Gold Coast, and the Slave Coast ; behind which are the kingdoms of Ashanteé, Borgou, Dahómey, and Bénin ; and Lower Guinea, including Loan'go, Con'go, Angóla, and Benguéla (Ben-gwe-lah).

Q. Does not a part of this coast belong to Great Britain ?

A. Yes : Sier'ra Leóne, capital Freetown, belongs to the English, and is made use of for a settlement for emancipated negroes or captured slaves ; and Cape Coast Castle. It is so unhealthy to Europeans as to be called The White Man's Grave.

Q. Has not America a similar settlement ?

A. Libéria, capital Monróvia, was established by America during the presidency of Mr. Monro, with a similar object.

Q. What other foreigners have settlements on this coast?

A. The Portuguese are the chief settlers in Lower Guinéa, and the French have Fort St. Louis and Gorée.

Q. What causes the great unhealthiness of these countries?

A. There are but two seasons—a hot season and a rainy season. During the hot season a pestilential wind frequently blows, called here the Harmattan; and during the rainy season the atmosphere is so saturated with moisture that it resembles a vapour bath.

Q. What are the chief articles of commerce of this portion of Africa?

A. They are chiefly indicated by the names of the several parts of the coasts,—slaves, ivory, grain, gold and gums.

Q. What are the natives of Western Africa called?

A. Foulahs (Foo-lahs), Mandin'goes, and Negroes; and some of the chiefs are among the most cruel and tyrannical in the world.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Q. Describe South Africa?

A. South Africa contains Cape Colony and the country of the Hottentots and Caffres.

Q. Can you give any account of Cape Colony?

A. The colony of the Cape of Good Hope is in the southern extremity of Africa, with a healthy climate and fertile soil, and belongs to the English, but there are many Dutch farmers in the interior. The country affords extensive pastures, and cattle are abundantly reared.

Q. What towns does the colony possess?

A. Many of the towns are of considerable size—Cape Town, the capital, with 20,000 inhabitants, George Town, Graham's Town, and Constantia. It is from the vicinity of the latter that South African wine is chiefly exported.

Q. What is the relative situation of the country of the Hottentots ?

A. North of Cape Colony. The Hottentots are said to be mild and inoffensive, and live in huts in the form of a bee-hive. They are disgustingly filthy in their habits, and eat the very refuse of animals.

Q. What parts of South Africa do the Caffres occupy ?

A. Caffraria is north-east of Cape Colony, and about 500 miles long. The Caffres are said to be much more civilized than the Hottentots and rear many cattle. They are of tall stature, handsome, and very courageous.

EASTERN AFRICA.

Q. What names are applied to the eastern coast of Africa ?

A. Nátal, Sofála, Mozambique, (Mo-zam-beek), Zanguebar', (Zan-gwe-bar), A'jan, and A'del.

Q. Where is the Natal coast ?

A. It lies between Caffraria and Sofála. Port Natal is its chief place.

Q. Where is Sofála ?

A. North of Caffraria, in the kingdom of Mocoran'ga. It is very fertile, though the climate is very hot.

Q. Can you describe Mozambique ?

A. Mozambique (Moz-am-beek), north of Sofála, possesses a luxuriant soil; and wild beasts—elephants, boars, &c.—are so numerous and fierce, that the inhabitants are obliged to kindle fires about their fields to prevent their crops from being destroyed.

Q. On what part of the coast is Zanguebar' ?

A. Zanguebar' is north of Mozambique, is marshy and insalubrious, and abounds with wild beasts. Melin'da is the capital, lately destroyed by the Galla, a very barbarous tribe. Mogadoxa and Mombáza, are the chief places.

Q. Can you describe the coast of A'jan ?

A. A'jan is north of Zanguebar', and is very un-productive. The inhabitants trade in gold, ivory, &c.

Q. What is the situation of A'del ?

A. North-west of A'jan and south-east of Abyssinia. It is said to possess a fertile soil, and the shores from Cape Guardafui to Babelman'deb produce the best myrrh and incense in the world.

Q. What people are in possession of most of the eastern coast of Africa ?

A. The Portuguese have many settlements on the east coast, and trade with the natives for ivory, gold dust, slaves, and bees'-wax.

CENTRAL AFRICA.

Q. What are the chief divisions of Central Africa ?

A. Nigrit'ia, or Soúdan, is yet but very little known. The districts already explored, are Bambar'a ; Timbuctoó, south of the great desert ; Soccatoó ; Hoússa, between Soccatoó and Bornoú, which is south-west of the lake Tchad ; Darfúr ; and Kordofan', south-west of Abyssinia.

Q. What is the character of this country ?

A. Many of the districts just mentioned are among the most fertile parts of Africa, being overflowed by the Niger, and are otherwise well watered.

Q. What do you know of lake Tchad and its neighbourhood ?

A. Lake Tchad is in the centre of Africa, and is said to have no outlet. It is 25 miles long and 150 broad. Bornoú to the south of it is a powerful kingdom, next to that of Hoússa, which lies north-west of the lake.

Q. What are the products of this part of Africa ?

A. Dourra, dates, cassia yielding senna from its leaves, the acacia yielding gum-arabic, and cotton. Timbuctoó is also a place of considerable trade in gold dust, ostrich feathers, slaves, and ivory.

Q. Who are the inhabitants of Central Africa ?

A. They are generally divided into Negroes and Fellátas.—The Negroes are good-natured but superstitious and fond of warfare. The Fellátas are a pastoral race, and are simple and amiable, yet fierce warriors.

Q. What is the character of the country south of Nigrit'ia ?

A. Till recently nobody seems to have given any very accurate account of it. It is now known to possess many well-watered districts, with peaceful people capable of much civilization.

AFRICAN ISLES.

Q. Which are the chief African isles in the Indian Ocean ?

A. Madagascar, the largest, which is 700 miles long, is independent ; Bourbon, which belongs to France ; and Maurit'ius, or Isle of France, which belongs to Great Britain.

Q. What do these islands produce ?

A. Abundance of sugar, coffee, cotton, and rice. Madagascar and the Maurit'ius are more fertile than Bourbon, which is volcanic, and, though larger than Maurit'ius, is not so populous.

Q. Do you remember any in the Atlantic Ocean ?

A. St. Heléna ; Ascension ; the Cape Verd isles ; Madéiras ; the Azores, or Western isles ; and the Canaries.

Q. Describe St. Heléna ?

A. St. Heléna, which belongs to England, is situated in the midst of the ocean, is very rocky, but is useful as a place for vessels to take in water. It is famed as being the place of banishment of Napoleon I. after the battle of Waterloo, from 1815 to 1821.

Q. Describe the Cape Verd Isles ?

A. The Cape Verd Isles are a numerous group be-

longing to Portugal, off the coast of Senegambia, and inhabited by Negroes. St. Jago (San-ta Yah-go), is the chief of the group. They are not productive.

Q. Where are the Madéiras?

A. They lie northward of the Canaries, and possess a very delightful climate, and are therefore much resorted to by invalids. They belong to Portugal, and export much wine: Funchal is the capital.

Q. To whom do the Canary Isles belong?

A. The Canaries belong to Spain; the largest of which is Teneriff'e, famed for its Peak, 12,000 feet high. Ferro is the most western of the group through which the first meridian used to be drawn. They possess a healthful climate, and are fertile.

AMERICA.

Q. In which hemisphere is America?

A. America, or the New World, as it is sometimes called, is situated in the Western hemisphere.

Q. Why is it called the New World?

A. Because it was unknown till 1492, when it was discovered by Christopher Columbus,¹ and explored seven years afterwards by Amerigo Vesputcci, (Vesput-she), from whom it derives its name.

Q. What are its boundaries?

A. The Atlantic Ocean on the east, the Pacific

¹ Christopher Colon, or Columbus, was a native of Genoa, and applied to Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain for assistance in an enterprise which had long exercised his mind. He became convinced by careful study of the rotundity of the earth, which had hitherto been considered to be an extensive plain; and Columbus was derided as a madman for his new opinions. Goods from India were at this period brought partly over-land. The object of Columbus was to find a direct passage to India by sea; and though this was most desirable, a period of twelve years was suffered to elapse from the time he first applied to Spain, before he received assistance for the furtherance of his views. In these twelve years he suffered much from poverty, and

Ocean on the west, the Arctic Ocean on the north, and the Straits of Maghálíen on the south.¹

Q. What are the extent and population of America?

A. From the Arctic Ocean on the north, to Cape Horn, the most southern point, it measures 9,000 miles, and contains 14 millions square miles, and a population of nearly 59 millions, more than half of whom are Europeans.

Q. What is the general feature of America?

A. It is generally speaking a flat and fertile country, the proportion of mountain to plain being not more than one-fourth.

Q. Which are the chief mountains of America?

A. The Alleghány, or Appaláchian Mountains, and the Rocky Mountains, in North America; and the Andes or Cordilleras, in South America.

Q. Where are the Alleghány Mountains?

A. The Alleghány, or Appaláchian Mountains, run through the eastern portion of the United States, and are about 1200 miles long.

Q. Where are the Rocky Mountains?

A. The Rocky Mountains run through the whole length of North America on the western side, and are generally considered to be but a continuation of the Andes.

Q. In what part of South America are the Andes?

was forced to beg his bread in the streets. However in 1492 three vessels were fitted out for him by Isabella—who, it is said, sold her jewels for the purpose—with which he set sail in the month of April. On his first voyage he discovered the Bahamas and Cuba, and conceiving them to be part of the country he so earnestly sought for, called them *West Indies*. Several Spanish colonies were afterwards formed, and Christopher Columbus appointed governor. It is said that this extraordinary man died in 1506 of a broken heart, in consequence of the ingratitude of Ferdinand, who, after the death of Isabella, removed him from being governor, and had him brought back to Spain as a prisoner. He was buried at Valladolid.

¹ Cape Horn was till lately considered the termination of the continent. It is now known to be on the island of Terra del Fuego, which is separated from the continent by the Straits of Maghálíen.

A. Andes is the general name given to the greatest range of mountains in the world, which stretches along the western side of South America. No part of the world is more subject to volcanic fire, or abounds more in gold, silver, mercury, and other metals. The highest points are Soráta and Illimáni.

Q. Which are the most remarkable volcanoes of the Andes ?

A. They are very numerous throughout the whole range, but the most remarkable are situated in the province of Quit'o (Kwe-to). They are Cotopaxi', by far the most tremendous volcano in the world; Chimborázo, 24,400 feet high ; and Cayam'bi.

Q. Are there not also very large plains in America ?

A. Yes ; they extend along the course of the large rivers ; in the north, from the Arctic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Rocky Mountains to the Alleghánies is almost one vast plain. The plains of South America are those of the Am'azon, Oronóco, and La Pláta rivers.

Q. What names are peculiar to these plains ?

A. Those of North America, on which a tall strong grass grows several feet high, are called Prairies or Savan'nahs ; those of South America, Llános or Pam'pas, which have no trees of any kind.

LAKES AND RIVERS OF AMERICA.

Q. Are not the Lakes of America very numerous ?

A. Yes ; the chief of which are Superior, Húron, and Mich'igan, which form the largest body of fresh water on the globe ; Erie and Ontárió, south of the Canadas and north of the United States ; the Winnipeg ; the Great Slave Lake ; Athapascow ;

and Great Bear Lake, in British America; Nicaragua, in Guatemála (Gwat-a-ma-lah); and Titicáca, in Bolívia.

Q. What is the size of Lake Superior?

A. Lake Superior, the greatest fresh-water lake on the globe, is 400 miles in length, and 175 miles in its greatest breadth.

Q. What is the extent of Húron and Mich'igan?

A. Lake Húron is 240 miles long and 200 broad; Mich'igan (Mitsh-e-gan) is 300 miles long and between 70 and 80 broad.

Q. What is the extent of E'rie and Ontárió?

A. E'rie covers an area of 10,000 miles, and Ontárió 12,600 miles. They are united by the river Niag'ara.¹

Q. What is the extent of Nicaragua?

A. It is 120 miles long, and in its greatest width 40 miles, and is situated in Central America, so as, together with the river St. Juan which runs out of it, nearly to separate North from South America.

Q. Where is Lake Titicáca?²

A. It lies between the East and West Cordil'leras of the Andes, on a table land of very great elevation.

Q. Which are the chief rivers of America?

A. The chief rivers of America, which are the largest in the world, are the Macken'zie, the St. Lawrence, the Ohío, the Missoúri (Mis-soo-re), and Mississip'pi, in North America; the Am'azon, Oronóco, and Rio-de-la-Pláta (Ree-o-da-lah-Plah-tah), in South America.

Q. Which is the largest of these rivers?

A. The Am'azon of South America, which rises

¹ In this river are the most celebrated waterfalls in the known world. There are several of great magnificence; but that which is called the Great or Horse-Shoe fall is the most stupendous. The height of it is probably 150 feet, and the roaring of the water is often heard at a distance of 30 miles. The quantity of water that falls is stated to be not less than 83 million tons an hour.

² Lake Titicaca is on a table land 14,000 feet above the sea.

in the Andes, flows eastward through Columbia and the north of Brazil into the Atlantic Ocean. It is 3,300 miles long, and receives in its course 200 other streams, larger than the greatest of Europe.

Q. Enumerate a few of these streams?

A. The tributaries of the Am'azon on the north side are the Japúra and the Negro; and on the south side the Púrus, Madiéra, Tapájos, and Xiúgu; some of which are 2,000 miles in length.

Q. Which are the next in length?

A. The Missoúri (Mis-soo-re), being nearly 3,000 miles long to its confluence with the Mississip'pi: the latter, from its source to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico, is 2,460 miles.

Q. Mention a few of the tributaries of the Missoúri and Mississip'pi?

A. On the right bank the Arkansas and the Red River; and on the left bank the Illinois and the Ohio, which last receives the Tennessee.

Q. Describe the Oronóco?

A. The Oronóco runs from the Andes through Columbia, and empties itself by many mouths into the Atlantic Ocean, just below the equator. It is 1,440 miles long.

Q. Where is the river Rio-de-la-Platá?

A. The La-Platá, which is formed by the Parana and Urúguay, runs in a southern direction through a territory of the same name. It has a course of 2,000 miles, and receives tributary streams of more than 1,000 miles long.

Q. What are its tributaries?

A. The Paraguáy (Par-a-gway), Saládo, Colerádo, and Negro.

Q. Where is the St. Lawrence river?

A. The St. Lawrence river drains the great lakes of North America, running into the gulf of the same name, and forming a boundary between Canada and the State of New York. It is a very fine river three or four miles broad half-way from its mouth.

DIVISIONS OF AMERICA.

Q. What are the divisions of America ?

A. America seems to be divided by nature into two nearly equal parts, north and south, which are united by the isthmus of Dárien, or Panamá, only 30 miles across, but formed of granite rock.

Q. What are the political divisions of North America ?

A. The possessions of the Native Tribes ; Russian America ; Danish America ; British America ; the United States ; México ; and Guatemála, or Central America.

Q. What part of America belongs to Russia ?

A. It is but a small part about Béhring Straits, and several islands—the Aleútian, Sitka, &c.—which the Russians hold as fur settlements ; but the country is very volcanic and little worth.

Q. What part of America belongs to Denmark ?

A. Greenland, inhabited chiefly by Esquimaúx, but valued for furs, seals, and eider down. It is for the most part barren rock or masses of ice, and the only fuel for the inhabitants is the drift wood which is brought by the currents along the coast ; and their only food fish, or flesh of the seal.

BRITISH TERRITORY.

Q. What is included in British America ?

A. British America includes all the northern part, except that occupied by the natives ; Lower and Upper Canada, north of the river St. Lawrence, and the lakes E'rie and Ontárió, Húron and Mich'igan (Mitsh-e-gan) ; Labrador ; Nova Scótia ; and New Brunswick ; and the isles of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's, the Bermúdas, and others.

Q. What is the character of the northern part of North America ?

A. It consists chiefly of immense forests of pine and other trees ; is entirely uncultivated, and inhabited by native Indian tribes— Chippeways, Stone Indians, Crees—and Esquimaux, all of whom are nominally under the Hudson's Bay Company, and barter with them their furs and skins.

Q. What is the natural geography of the Canadas ?

A. The Canadas are woody and mountainous, and subject to extreme heat and cold, but are yet salubrious. Winter is quickly succeeded by summer, so that vegetation is exceedingly rapid.

Q. What are the articles of commerce with Canada ?

A. The trade of Canada is very considerable in timber, pot and pearl ashes, wheat, furs, and fish.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Quebec and Montreal in Lower Canada on the St. Lawrence ; Toronto and Kingston in Upper Canada. In recovering Quebec from the French in 1759, General Wolf lost his life.¹

Q. What is the religion and government of the Canadas ?

A. The religion of Lower Canada is the Roman Catholic, but the Protestant Episcopalian is the established religion of Upper Canada. The governor is appointed by the English Parliament. There is a legislative council, and an assembly for each of the provinces, having power to make laws, with the consent of the governor.

Q. Describe Nova Scôtia and Newfoundland.

A. Nova Scotia contains many forests, and a thin and barren soil, and not very healthy. Newfoundland

¹ The first French settlement was at Quebec in 1608. The inhabitants are many of them descended from the early French settlers ; but, except in Lower Canada, the inhabitants of these parts are mostly from Great Britain. Quebec is the Gibraltar of America, and has a very fine harbour.

land is marshy and barren ; and south of the island there is a celebrated cod fishery, which begins about the middle of May and ends with September.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Halifax, in Nova Scotia, a place of great trade, with a magnificent harbour ; and St. John's, in Newfoundland, and in New Brunswick.

UNITED STATES.

Q. What is the situation of the United States ?

A. The United States, of which there were originally only 13, are now 27, and 3 Territories, and are situated between British America on the north, and Mexico and the gulf of that name on the south ; and are, generally speaking, fertile.

Q. Do you know the names of these States ?¹

A. North, or New England States,—

	Chief Town.
Maine	Augusta
New Hampshire	Concord
Vermont'	Montpellier
Massachusetts	Boston
Rhode Island	Newport
Connecticut.....	Hartford

Middle States—

New York	Albany
New Jersey.....	Trenton
Pennsylvania	Harrisburgh
Delaware	Dover
Maryland.....	Annap'olis
Columbia District...	Washington, the Capital.

¹ Many of these States arose from British colonies. Many of their names also, are those of the sovereign reigning at the time the settlements were formed : as, Maryland, so named from Mary queen of Charles I. ; Georgia, formed in the reign of George II., in the year 1732 ; Virginia, in honour of our virgin queen Elizabeth, colonized in 1583 ; and so of many others. The Americans, in 1776, disclaimed all dependence on the mother country, and Great Britain acknowledged their independence in 1783. Their language and laws are those of the English.

		Chief Town.
Virginia		Richmond
North {	Carolina	{ Raleigh
South }		{ Columbia
Georgia		Milledgeville
Florida		Tallahassee
North-Western States—		
Missouri		Jefferson
Kentucky		Frankfort
Illinois		Vandalia
Indiana		Indianapolis
Ohio		Columbus
Michigan		Detroit
South-Western States—		
Alabama		Tuscaloosa
Mississippi		Jackson
Louisiana		New Orleans
Tennessee		Nashville
Arkansas		Little Rock
Texas		Austin
Wisconsin	} Territories. ¹	
Iowa		
Western, with Oregon }		

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. The extent of the States and Territories from north to south is 2,500 miles, and from east to west is 1,600 miles ; and the population is rated at 23 millions, most of whom have emigrated from Great Britain.

Q. Are there not two distinct classes among the population of the United States ?

A. Yes : the White or free population, and the Black or slave population, between whom there is a very strong feeling of dislike. The slave States are in the south, the inhabitants of the northern States being greatly opposed to slavery.

¹ Territories do not send members to Congress, and do not otherwise share in the government.

Q. Are the United States populous ?

A. Massachusetts is the most populous. There is very little population except in large towns, which often lie at a great distance from each other ; and there are still vast forests, and extensive tracts of unreclaimed land.

Q. Which are some of the chief towns ?

A. Washington, the seat of government, in Columbia ; New York, the largest city in America ; Baltimore, the Birmingham of America ; Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, and Charleston.

Q. What are the chief articles of trade ?

A. The exports of the United States are pot and pearl ashes, raw cotton in vast quantities, wheat, flour, corn, rice, tobacco, and timber. England also finds a very extensive market in the United States for her manufactured goods.

Q. What is the religion and form of government ?

A. There is no *established* religion ; but the most numerous sects are the Presbyterians, Baptists, Independents, Episcopalians, and Methodists. The form of government is that of a republic. The national assembly is called a Congress, consisting of a president, vice-president, senate, and house of representatives.¹

MEXICO AND GUATEMALA.

Q. What is the relative situation of Mexico ?

A. Mexico, or Spanish America, including California, is south-west of the United States, and north of Guatemála (Gwat-a-mah-lah) ; the eastern boundary is the Gulf of Mexico, and the western boundary the Pacific Ocean.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

¹ The residence of the President is called White House, and the building in which Congress meets is called "The Capitol." The Representatives are elected every second year ; the Senators are chosen for six years, and the President and Vice-President for four.

A. It is very diversified with mountains and delightful vales, plains, and beautiful lakes and rivers ; the soil is extremely fertile, but the climate is very hot and unhealthy.

Q. What are the chief productions of the soil ?

A. Cotton, indigo, sugar, tobacco, maize, and in the peninsula of Yucatan' whole forests of mahogany and logwood.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. Mexico contains $1\frac{1}{2}$ million square miles, and a population of $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions, nearly half of whom are Indians.

Q. Does not Mexico contain very valuable mines ?

A. Yes ; the chief minerals are gold and silver in great quantities ; quicksilver ; tin ; diamonds, and turquoises ; and from her vast resources and admirable position she might be one of the most powerful states in the world.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Mexico, Puebla, Acapulco, La Vera Cruz, and Xalapa, from which jalap is exported.

Q. What are the religion and government ?

A. The established religion is that of the Roman Catholic church. The form of government very much resembles that of the United States.

Q. Where is Guatemala ?

A. Guatemala is another portion of Spanish America, south of Mexico, on the isthmus which unites North and South America. It recovered its independence in 1824, and is sometimes called the Republic of Central America

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Truxillo, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and S. Salva-

¹ The mineral wealth of Mexico is almost incredible. There are 3,000 silver mines at work, and almost every other metal is to be found with little trouble in the search ; but the roads are wretched, and the country is so infested by robbers that nothing is secure, and the precious metals require a very strong guard in being transferred to the coast.

dór. The houses in some parts are built of but one story, because of the frequency of earthquakes.

Q. What are the articles of commerce ?

A. Cochineal, sarsaparilla, balsam, a great variety of valuable dye-woods, and the precious metals.

Q. Does not a portion of Central America belong Great Britain ?

A. Honduras, or Balíze, from which we procure mahogany and other valuable timber, and the shores of which are fenced by numerous coral rocks, whose banks supply great numbers of turtle.

Q. What are some of the peculiarities of the Mexicans ?

A. The country being highly productive, they are indolent, very fond of smoking, and even ladies smoke incessantly. Immorality, murder, and robbery, are common.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Q. What are the divisions of South America ?

A. The ancient Spanish dominions, that is, Columbia, which is divided into Venezuela, New Granada and Ecuador ; Perú and Bolivia ; Chili (Tshe-le) ; La-Plata (Lah-Plah-tah) ; Patagonia ; Banda Oriental ; Brazil ; and Guiana.

Q. In what part of South America is Columbia ?

A. Columbia is the most northern division of South America, having Perú and that part of Brazil called Amazonia, on the south.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. It is in some parts mountainous, and in others very level ; the soil is productive and the climate hot and unhealthy.

Q. What are the extent and population ?

A. The three states taken collectively measure 1,100,000 square miles, and contain nearly three millions of inhabitants, chiefly native Indians.

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Bagáto, Panamá, and Porto Bello, on the isthmus, and Carthagéna, in New Granada ; Quito (Kwe-to), in Ecuador ; Carrac'cas, in Venezuela,¹ and Maracaybo.

Q. What are the articles of trade ?

A. The exports are cocoa, in great quantities, coffee, dyewoods, hides, and excellent tobacco. The imports are manufactured goods.

Q. What is the form of government ?

A. The three States formerly formed the Republic of Columbia ; but they are now quite independent of each other, and form three distinct Republics.

LOWER PERU AND BOLIVIA.²

Q. What is the situation of Lower Peru ?

A. Lower Peru is a mountainous district on the western coast, south of Ecuador, and is very subject to earthquakes. It contains a population of nearly two millions.

Q. Is not Peru' very rich in minerals ?

A. Peru' is the richest in minerals of any country in the world, especially in the neighbourhood of Pas'co.

Q. What are its exports ?

¹ Venezuela means little Venice, and Ecuador means Equator, — the former is so called because many of its native houses were built on piles in the lake of Maracaybo, thus resembling Venice; the latter because it is situated on the Equator.

² When the Spaniards visited Lower Peru, in 1530, they found it governed by sovereigns called Incas, who were adored by their subjects as deities, and who had attained to considerable refinement and civilization, as the splendid ruins attest. Peru was taken by Pizarro, who caused the Inca to be burnt alive in 1553. Upper Peru is called Bolivia, from Bolivar, who procured its independence. It has a very precipitous coast, and travelling in the interior is peculiarly difficult, on account of the rugged nature of the country, and is chiefly by means of mules and llamas over the elevated mountain passes (14,000 feet).

A. Gold, silver, copper, saltpetre, and Peruvian bark. The gold and silver is shipped from Arica (A-re-ca).

Q. Which are the chief places?

A. Lima, the capital; Callao; Truxillo; and Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Incas, where are splendid ruins of ancient palaces.

Q. Where is Bolivia?

A. Bolivia, or Upper Peru, is between the last-mentioned division and La-Plata, and contains a population of more than a million. It is, like Lower Peru, subject to earthquakes, and till lately was thought to contain the loftiest summit on the globe.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Chuquisca, the capital; and Potosi, so renowned for its mines of silver; and Cubija (Koo-be-ya), its only seaport.

CHILI AND LA-PLATA.

Q. What is the situation of Chi'li (Tshe-le)?

A. Chi'li is a long narrow country between the Andes and the sea, where, as in Egypt, as well as in most of the countries along this coast, it seldom rains. It is of an agreeable temperature, and has a fertile soil. It is also rich in the precious metals.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. St. Jago, (Santa Yah-go,) Valparaiso, and Concepcion, which export, besides the precious metals, hides, tallow, and wheat.¹

Q. What is the situation of La-Plata?

A. La-Plata is a Republic situated between the river of the same name on the east, and the Andes on the west, having Bolivia on the north, and Patagonia on the south.

Q. What is the natural geography of La-Plata?

¹ The island of Juan Fernandez, the abode of Alexander Selkirk (Robinson Crusoe), belongs to Chili.

A. It consists of large and luxuriant plains, though often parched with drought, called pampas ; and the climate is more healthy than that of other countries similarly situated.

Q. What does La-Plata export ?

A. Hides, horsehair, wool, horns, furs, &c., chiefly the produce of her immense plains on which millions of wild cattle roam, and which are often slaughtered for the sake of their skins or their tongues.¹

Q. Which are the chief towns ?

A. Buenos Ayres (good air), the capital ; Santa Fé (Fa), Córdoba, and Mendoza.

PATAGONIA, BANDA ORIENTAL, AND PARAGUAY.

Q. In what part of America is Patagónia ?

A. Patagónia is the most southern portion of South America. It is mountainous and barren, exposed to storms and earthquakes, and inhabited by Indians, who are considered the tallest people on the globe. (See page 9.)

Q. Which is the most southern point of South America ?

A. Cape Horn was for a long time considered the termination of the continent, but it is now ascertained to be on the island of Terra-del-Fuégio (land of fire), which is separated from the continent by the Straits of Maghálies.

Q. Where is Banda Oriental ?

A. It is a Republic lying eastward of La-Plata (Lah-Plah-tah) and south of Brazil, containing a population of about 70,000.

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Banda Oriental consists of very extensive plains, with some hills ; and both plains and hills

¹ It is on the plains of La-Plata that the Gauchos, so famed for the use of the lasso and the bola, acquire their skill in catching the wild animals at full speed in the noose of the lasso.

are without trees, and afford only pasture for cattle.

Q. Which is the chief town ?

A. Monte Video, on the mouth of the river La-Plata, a place of much trade, and rivaling Buenos Ayres.

Q. What form the chief articles of trade ?

A. Hides, tallow, and wool are exported ; the imports are manufactured goods.

Q. Where is Paraguáy ?

A. Paraguáy is the name given to the country north of Banda Oriental, on the east side of the river Paraguay, a tributary of the La-Plata. It contains some large forests, in which the caoutchouc, or india-rubber tree, grows wild.

Q. What is its capital ?

A. Assumption is its capital, but Villa Real has also much trade in Paraguay tea. The other exports are timber and hides.

BRAZIL AND GUIANA.

Q. What is the situation of Brazil ?

A. Brazil is a very large country, comprising two-fifths of South America, which formerly belonged to Portugal, and is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north and east, and by Paraguáy and Banda Oriental on the south.¹

Q. What is the description of the country ?

A. Brazil is in many parts mountainous, with many extensive plains watered by the numerous tributaries of the river Amazon, which annually overflow their banks. The country, though mostly

¹ Brazil was discovered in 1500 by a Portuguese, who was driven upon it by a tempest. It continued in the possession of the Portuguese till 1822, when it gained its independence. It is supposed to have derived its name from the abundance of Brazil wood which is found here.

within the tropics, enjoys a moderate climate, and the soil in many parts is extremely productive.

Q. Does not this country supply valuable minerals?

A. Yes; no country is said to be so rich in diamonds and topazes; gold and iron is abundant, but there is no silver.

Q. What are some of the productions of the soil?

A. Brazil, rich beyond comparison in minerals, is also rich in the products of the soil—sugar, tobacco, cotton, maize, dye-woods, caoutchouc, and nuts. Cattle also are very numerous, and 20,000 hides are sent annually to Europe.¹

Q. What are the extent and population?

A. The extent of Brazil is nearly equal to that of Europe; and it contains a population of about seven millions, but more than half are slaves.

Q. Which are the chief towns?

A. Rio-de-Janeiro (Re-o-da-Jan-e-ro), or San Sebastian, the capital, one of the finest harbours in the world; Bahia; Pernambuco; and Villa Bella.

Q. What is the religion of the country?

A. The religion of Brazil, as well as of the other countries of South America, which have been in the possession of Spain or Portugal, is the Roman Catholic.

Q. Where is Guiana?

A. Guiana is a very unhealthy country on the north-eastern coast of South America, part of which—Demera'ra, Essequibo, and Berbice (Ber-bees), belong to the British; Cayenne, to the French, used as a place of transportation; Surinam, to the Dutch; and that part nearest to Brazil, to Portugal.

Q. What are the exports of this country?

A. Ipecacuanha, castor-oil, india-rubber, Cayenne-pepper, sugar, coffee, rum, &c.

¹ There are immense forests of valuable wood—rosewood, mahogany, logwood, cocoa-nut, &c.—which nothing can penetrate; and but about one-fiftieth part of the country is under cultivation.

Q. What are the chief towns ?

A. Georgetown, on the Demera'ra ; New Amsterdam, on the Berbice ; Paramar'ibo, on the Surinam' ; and Cayen'ne, in French Guiana.

WEST INDIES.

Q. Where are the West Indies ?

A. West Indies is the name which Columbus gave to some islands discovered by him in his voyage to the East Indies, in a westerly direction. It is now applied to all those islands in the Archipelago, between North and South America.

Q. How are these islands distinguished ?

A. They are divided into the Bahámas ; Great Antilles, or Windward Isles ; and Little Antilles, or Leeward Isles.

Q. To whom do the Bahámas belong ?

A. The Bahamas, situated to the north of Cuba and Dominica, are small and unproductive, and belong to the British.

Q. To what powers do the Windward Isles belong ?

A. Of the Windward Isles, which are peculiarly unhealthy, Jamaica, belongs to the English ; Cuba, the largest, and Porto Rico, to Spain ; and Hay'ti or Dominica, the next in extent to Cuba, is independent.

Q. Do any of the Leeward Islands belong to the English ?

A. Yes ; Antigua, Barbádoes, Barbúda, Anguil'la, Dominica (Dom-in-e-kah), Grenada, Gren'adines, Montser'rat, Névis, St. Christopher or St. Kitt, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobágo, and Trin'idad.

Q. To whom do the other Leeward Isles belong ?

A. To France—

Guadaloupe (Guad-
a-loop)

Martinique (Mar-
tin-eek)

Gallan'te

All Saints

And part of St.

Martin's.

Sweden—
 St. Bartholomew.
 Spain—
 Margarita
 Testigo
 Tortuga, &c.

Dutch—
 Curaçoa, &c. (Kura-so-ah).
 Danish—
 St. Croix, &c. (St. Krwah).

Q. What are the productions of these islands?

A. Most of them produce sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco, rum, ginger, pepper, pine-apples,¹ bread-fruit, gums.

Q. Mention a few of the chief trading ports?

A. Kingston and Montego Bay, in Jamaica; Guadaloupe; St. Domingo and Port au Prince, in Hayti; Havana, capital of Cuba; and St. Juan, capital of Porto Rico.

Q. Where are the Bermúdas?

A. They form a numerous cluster considerably north of the Bahamas, of which only few are inhabited.

Q. What other islands belong to the American continent?

A. There are very many other islands lying near the coasts of North and South America, but the chief are South Orkney, South Shetland, Desolation Island in the Antarctic Ocean; in the Pacific lie the Patagonian Archipelago, Juan Fernandez, Vancouver's Island, Queen Charlotte's, and the Aleutian Islands; in the Arctic the Islands of Bathurst, Melville, Cornwallis, &c.

AUSTRALASIA.²

Q. What is comprehended in Australasia?

A. Australasia includes Australia or New Holland, the largest island in the world; Papua, separated from Australia by Torres Straits; and Van

¹ Pine-apples, which are now brought to this country in great quantities, grow in some of the West India islands as common as our turnips.

² Australasia means "Southern Asia."

Diemen's Land, separated from it on the south by Bass's Straits; New Zealand, New Britain, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, &c.

Q. What is the extent of Australia?

A. It is 2,400 miles from east to west, and 1,960 from north to south; a great portion of which is little known.

Q. What are the divisions of Australia?

A. New South Wales, capital Sydney, or Port Jackson; South Australia, capital Adelaide; West Australia, or Swan River, capital Perth; and North Australia, capital Port Essingham.

Q. What is the character of the country?

A. The soil, so far as it is known, is considered rich and fertile; and the climate fine and healthy. There are immense forests of evergreen trees, and very extensive sheep farms.

Q. What trade is carried on with Australia?

A. The imports are manufactured goods and colonial produce; and the exports are great quantities of wool, spermaceti and train oil, and much gold.

Q. Name any other town of importance on this large island.

A. Melbourne and Geelong in Port Philip, in Australia Felix; and Freemantle in West Australia.

Q. What other portion of Australasia belongs to Great Britain?

A. Van Diemen's Land, or Tasmania, capital Hobart Town, a very flourishing tract finely situated; and New Zealand, forming two islands, New Ulster and New Munster, and separated from each other by Cook's Strait.

Q. Give some further account of New Zealand?

A. It is about 1,000 miles from Australia, and is now a highly flourishing colony, though but a few years ago its inhabitants were cannibals. It has a healthy climate, and a fertile soil, and exports flax and timber. Its chief towns are Auckland, Wellington, and Nelson.

POLYNESIA.¹

Q. What is to be understood by Polynesia ?

A. It is the term generally applied to the numerous groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Q. Can you name the chief of the groups ?

A. Ladrónes Islands.	Navigator's Islands.
Pelew' Islands.	Cook's Islands.
Caroline Islands.	Society Islands.
Feejee Islands.	Marquesas.
Friendly Islands.	Sandwich Islands.

Q. Do you know the meaning of Ladrónes ?

A. It means "Robbers;" and is applied to a cluster of isles, 12 or 14 in number, north of the Carolinas. They are fertile; and from the ruins which are to be met with, are thought to have been once very flourishing, though now almost without inhabitants.

Q. Can you describe the other groups of islands in the Pacific ?

A. The Carolinas are a very numerous group, inhabited by a gentle and courteous people, who are very dexterous swimmers. The Pelew' Islands are between the Philippines and the Carolinas; their inhabitants are a kind and simple race. The Sandwich Islands are north-east of those just mentioned, and are inhabited by a people of mild disposition, and who have made some progress in civilization. Owyhee is the chief island.²

Q. What is the situation of the Society Isles ?

A. The Society Isles are a very numerous group, lying between 130 and 160 degrees west longitude, and between 10 and 20 degrees south latitude; in

¹ Polynesia means "many islands."

² In Owyhee Captain Cook lost his life; but this was not owing to the natural ferocity of the people. Owyhee is now under the protection of Great Britain.

which the bread-tree abounds.¹ Otaheite is the chief island, and the inhabitants are very affable and engaging.

Q. Describe the Friendly Isles ?

A. The Friendly Isles lie westward of the Society Isles, and abound in yams, sugar canes, cocoa-nut trees, &c. The inhabitants are intelligent, and of a kind disposition ; and have adopted many European practices.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

PRODUCTIONS AND MANUFACTURES.

Q. What is the amount of the exports and imports of Great Britain ?

A. For the year 1859, the imports exceeded £160,000,000, and the exports £130,440,000 sterling, whilst the tonnage of ships engaged in her commerce exceeds $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions tons.

MINERALS.

TIN.—Q. Is not the name of this island derived from one of its mineral productions ?

A. Britain is supposed to derive its name from the great quantity of Tin which at a very early period was exported from it chiefly by the Phœnicians, and who therefore called it "Tin Island." At the present time the annual value of the metal found in Great Britain is about £800,000.

Q. In what part of Britain is it chiefly found ?

¹ The bread-fruit tree is found in most of the South Sea islands. It "rises to the height of more than 40 feet, with a trunk about the thickness of a man's body ; its fruit, which is nearly as large as a young child's head, being gathered while yet unripe, and roasted in the ashes, is a most wholesome nourishment, and in taste resembles new wheat bread. For eight successive months every year does this tree continue to furnish fruit in such abundance, that three of them are amply sufficient for the support of one man."

A. The Phœnicians are said to have visited *Cornwall* five or six hundred years B.C. for the purchase of Tin, and it is in this county almost exclusively that it is found in England, and employs about 10,000 hands.

Q. In what other parts of the world is it still found ?

A. In Galicia in Spain, Saxony, Bohemia, Mexico, Chili, Banca and the Peninsula of Malacca. Malacca supplies the best Tin, but Cornwall the greatest quantity.

Q. Tell me some of its uses ?

A. Besides being used in the manufacture of numerous articles of every-day use, it is much used as an alloy : with copper it forms bronze, and bell-metal ; with iron, numerous white metals, as pewter, tin-plate, &c. ; and with mercury it is used for the silvering of mirrors.

IRON.—Q. Give a few particulars respecting Iron ?

A. Iron is the most useful, the most abundant, and the most widely diffused, of all the metals. It is not found in the metallic state, but intermixed with soils, in rocks, and in mineral waters ; the best Iron being found in Syria, Carinthia, the Ural mountains, and in the Alleghany mountains.

Q. What are the properties of Iron ?

A. It is of all metals the most tenacious, and so ductile that it can be drawn into wire finer than hair, capable of supporting very great weights. It is capable of a high polish, is very hard, and requires great heat to melt it.

Q. How does Steel differ from Iron ?

A. Steel is made from Iron by what is called cementation—by placing Iron in contact with powdered charcoal for many hours, then suddenly plunging it into cold water.

Q. Which are the “Iron districts” of Great Britain ?

A. Its most ancient locality seems to have been

the Forest of Dean (1238). But it is now manufactured in localities where fuel is most easily obtained.—Durham, part of Yorkshire and Lancashire, Shropshire, North and South Wales, Staffordshire, Stirling and Lanark—the most famous foundry being the Carron works on the Frith of Forth; and the chief mines at Colebrookdale, Shropshire; Dean Forest, Gloucestershire; and Ulverstone, Lancashire.

Q. What foreign countries export much Iron?

A. This country at an early period depended mainly on Norway and Sweden for her supply of Iron; but much is now imported also from Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Belgium.

Q. What is the extent of the trade in Iron of this country?

A. Of the quantity of Iron made in this country no correct account can be given; but it is estimated at 35,000,000 tons; and the export trade alone in *manufactured* iron goods is above £5,000,000 annually.

COAL. Q. What is the composition of Coal?

A. Coal is composed of charcoal, bitumen, and earthy matter, and its quality depends upon the relative proportions in which these are found united. It is generally believed to have been formed in remote ages of the earth's history from immense forests and other vegetable matter.

Q. Is not Great Britain very rich in Coal?

A. There can be no doubt that the country derives her great wealth from the abundance of coal and iron which are usually found pretty close together; and the coal seams are so numerous and extensive, that it is calculated that though the consumption at present is at the rate of more than 60,000,000 tons annually, they will yield a supply for thousands of years.

Q. Where are the great Coal Fields situated?

A. They have been divided into the northern—Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Flintshire; the Midland—Derby-

shire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire ; and the Western—Monmouthshire, Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, and Somersetshire. Coal is found also in Scotland in Stirling, Lanark, Fife, and Mid-Lothian ; and in Ireland in all the four provinces, but the most important beds are in Leinster and Munster.

Q. In what foreign countries is coal found ?

A. Small coal fields occur in the southern and central parts of France, and one of considerable extent in the north from Boulogne to Belgium, where there are many rich beds, and onward to Aix-la-Chapelle ; in Saxony, Bohemia, North Germany, and the south of Russia, in Europe ; in Asia, south of the Himalaya Mountains ; in numerous parts of the United States of America ; and in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton in great quantity and of excellent quality.

Q. What is the extent of the coal trade of Great Britain ?

A. Besides supplying 60,000,000 tons for home consumption, (5,000,000 being required for London alone, chiefly from Newcastle and that part of the country), there is exported annually, to almost all parts of the world, upwards of 6,000,000 tons, and upwards of 8,000 ships are employed in the trade.

GOLD.—Q. What can you tell about gold ?

A. Gold is one of what are called the precious metals ; it is found in and about all parts of the world, but in greatest quantities in California, South America, and Australia, in a pure state as well as mixed with other metals ; it is extremely ductile, and malleable, and is not affected by exposure to air or moisture.

Q. Name one or two other places which yield much gold ?

A. In the Uralian Mountains it has been found in lumps of great weight with platinum, and in parts of Africa, Guinea, and Zanguebar, it is found

in the sand of rivers. Japan, too, Hindoostan, and Hungary, have a great abundance of it.

Q. What are its usual alloys ?

A. In consequence of gold being nearly as soft as lead, it is usually mixed with copper (1 in 12) to harden it, in order to fit it for coinage and for the jeweller ; but to form what is called pale gold it is mixed with silver.

Q. What is the probable value of the gold found ?

A. The mines of America produce less than £2,000,000 a year : but it is impossible to estimate the whole amount found, which also seems to be on the increase ; and Europe, which at one time exported gold, now yields by far less than either America, Asia, or Australia.

SILVER.—Q. What are the properties of silver ?

A. It is the whitest of all metals, and, like gold, occurs in a native state, and fit for immediate use. It is sufficiently soft to be cut with a knife, is very malleable and ductile, but is not so tenacious as iron, copper, or platinum.

Q. In what form is silver generally met with ?

A. It is chiefly met with in veins, the ore of which will sometimes yield 60 or 70 per cent. of silver ; but sometimes in lumps of great size, from 100 to 800 lbs. weight. The threads or veins sometimes resemble branches of a tree ; it is then called dendritic.

Q. Where is silver mostly found ?

A. It is met with in most parts of the world : in the British Isles ; at Konsberg, in Norway (the richest in Europe) ; Schemnitz, in Hungary ; the north of Europe, and Germany ; Siberia ; Birmah, and Japan ; but especially in Mexico and South America.

Q. To what extent is it found ?

A. The Mexican mines produce annually about £5,000,000 worth ; those of Potosi, in Peru, the richest in the world, have alone yielded nearly

£250,000,000, and annually about £2,000,000 ; those of Chili, Peru, Buenos Ayres, and New Granada, £2,000,000 ; and those of Great Britain about £160,000.

Q. How is silver hardened for ordinary use ?

A. It is mixed with copper as 12 to 1 for standard silver, though in trade its value varies from the standard quality to that which contains but a mere fraction of the precious metal.

COPPER.—Q. What can you tell about Copper ?

A. It is another of those metals which is found in the greatest number of places and in the largest quantities, and before the use of iron was employed for warlike instruments. It is also found in a native state, though much more abundantly in numerous ores.

Q. Name a few of its properties ?

A. It is of a red colour, is very ductile and malleable, and in strength stands next to iron and platinum : it is also a good conductor of heat and electricity, is very sonorous, and is extensively used, not only in the manufacture of numerous articles of domestic use, but also rather extensively in medicine.

Q. Where is it mostly found ?

A. It is found in great abundance in this country—in Cornwall, Devon, Cumberland, Anglesea, and South Wales ; in Norway, Austria, Siberia, Japan, Birmah, and in many parts of the American continent.

Q. In what quantity is it found ?

A. The British mines alone supply about 15,000 tons, and much is brought to this country for smelting, and again exported. The amount of the exports being annually about 12,000 tons, and worth upwards of £1,000,000.

LEAD.—Q. What are the properties of Lead ?

A. It is of a bluish-grey colour, and is so soft as to be easily bent ; and when rubbed on paper or cloth, leaves a dark mark. It may be formed into

thin leaves, but it is not ductile, and only very slightly tenacious. When used medicinally it requires much care.

Q. In what state is it met with ?

A. Native lead is very rare, and its chief ore is galena ; but it is found in various combinations, and generally contains more or less silver.

Q. What are the alloys of lead ?

A. Mixed with antimony, it forms what is called type-metal ; and common pewter is a mixture of one part lead and four parts tin ; while tin and lead in equal parts form the plumber's solder : it is also extensively used alloyed with arsenic in the making of shot.

Q. Where is it mostly found ?

A. It is found in great quantities in Cumberland, Durham, Derbyshire, Cornwall, and Flintshire ; in Lanarkshire ; in Spain, France, Austria, Hungary, South America, and the United States.

Q. Is lead abundant in this country ?

A. About 68,000 tons are obtained ; and this being much more than is wanted for home use, about 10,000 tons are annually exported, chiefly to Russia, Holland, British India, and Brazil, though nearly 2,000 tons of this has been previously imported from Adra in Spain.

PLATINUM.—Q. What is the history of this metal ?

A. It was unknown till 1741, when it was discovered in Jamaica ; and from its resemblance to silver (*plata*) was called platina or platinum. It is very scarce, being found chiefly in small grains mixed with sand, &c., but has been met with in the Uralian Mountains, Chili, and Brazil.

Q. Do you know any of its properties ?

A. It is of a greyish white colour, between that of silver and tin, is exceedingly ductile and malleable, and, next to iron and copper, it is the most tenacious of metals—nor can it be melted by the greatest heat of a forge.

Q. What are its uses ?

A. As it will take a high polish, and suffers no change by exposure to the atmosphere, it is used for reflectors of telescopes, mathematical instruments, and chemical vessels ; and, like iron, it possesses the valuable property of welding at a high temperature.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.

TIMBER.—Q. What is included in the term timber ?

A. Trees of over twenty years growth, and all kinds of wood used for building and furnishing of houses and ships, are called timber ; that of less growth, and that used for small articles of ornament, &c., being usually called “ woods.”

Q. What timber is grown in this country ?

A. The oak, ash, elm, beech, walnut, chesnut, holly, and others. Shropshire, Hampshire, Kent, and Sussex are famous for oaks, and Buckinghamshire for beech.

Q. Mention the timber which is imported.

A. Pine, or deals, are imported chiefly from Norway (Christiana), Sweden, Russia (Riga and Revel), and Memel in Prussia, Canada,¹ and the United States ;² teak from the west coast of Africa ; mahogany from Honduras and Central America ; log-wood from Campeachy ; dye-woods generally from South America ; cork from Spain ; and ebony from Hindoostan.³

Q. Does this country need a great importation of timber ?

A. Till about the sixteenth century the native forests were found sufficient for the demand, but since that period the imports have gradually increased up to about 2,500,000 loads (1859), about half coming from British America, and most of the remainder from the North of Europe.

¹ Canadian timber is said to be very liable to dry rot.

² The United States furnishes also the maple.

³ The Asiatic isles supply sandal-wood.

CORN.—Q. To what extent is corn exported or imported in Great Britain?

A. Till the close of the last century more was grown than was consumed; after which England began to be dependent on other countries for grain, and now the imports of corn of all kinds amount to 10,000,000 quarters, nearly half of which is wheat.

Q. What countries chiefly supply our markets?

A. Our supplies of corn come from Dantzic (the greatest market in the world), Stettin, and Königsberg; St. Petersburg, Riga, and Odessa; Hamburg; Canada, and the United States.

Q. Which are the corn-growing counties of England?

A. The east coast from its general dryness is suited for the growth of grain, while the west coast for the contrary reason is more suited for pastures; but wheat is much grown in the southern and eastern counties, barley in the north and hilly districts, oats in the fenny districts, and in many parts of Scotland and Ireland.

COTTON.—Q. How is cotton produced?

A. It is grown in three ways—on a tree, on a bush, and on a creeping plant. That which is called “Sea Island,” and grown in South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia, fetches the best price; and that from the East Indies the lowest.

Q. Which are the chief cotton-growing countries?

A. The United States of America, East and West Indies, Brazil, Egypt and other parts of Africa, Central America, South America, and all the south parts of Asia.

Q. How does this country get its supply for manufacture?

A. Four-fifths of that used in Great Britain comes from the United States of America; and about one-sixth, from the East Indies. Brazil, Central America, and Egypt, import also a small portion.

Q. What is the extent of the cotton trade?

A. Though cotton goods were manufactured at a very early period, yet in this country the trade dates only from the middle of the seventeenth century, but has increased so enormously till it now maintains upwards of a million and a half of people.

Q. Can you give the estimated value of cotton and its manufacture in this country?

A. In 1859 there were imported nearly 5,500,000 tons of cotton in the raw state, and the *exported* manufactured goods to almost all parts of the world exceed in value £40,000,000 annually.¹

Q. Where is the trade in cotton chiefly carried on?

A. The market for raw cotton is Liverpool, and the centre of its manufacture is Manchester and most of the large towns of Lancashire. It also employs great numbers in parts of Cheshire and Yorkshire; and in Scotland, in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

FLAX.—Q. Give some account of the flax plant.

A. Flax is an annual plant, a native of Egypt, but now grown in all parts of Europe, in many parts of North America, and in New Zealand, from the fibres of whose stalk all the many linen¹ manufactures are made, from a coarse ship's sail to the finest cambric handkerchief. It bears a pretty blue flower, and numerous seeds, from which linseed oil is obtained.

Q. What foreign countries supply our market?

A. The best flax comes from Riga, Holland, Flanders, and New Zealand, though much is now grown in many parts of Ireland and Scotland;—the entire imports being about 900,000 tons.

Q. Has not linen manufacture increased very rapidly?

A. The manufacture of linen has progressed so rapidly that it is said to have doubled in England and trebled in Scotland within the last fifty years,

¹ Linen is so called from *Linum Usitatissimum*, the botanical name of flax.

and employs more than a million of hands, mostly women and children.

Q. Where are the principal flax mills ?

A. At Leeds and other parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire ; in Lancashire, Dorset, Durham, and Shropshire ; the north of Ireland about Belfast ; and at Dundee and its neighbourhood.

RICE.—Q. What is the native country of rice ?

A. Rice is supposed to be native to India, and thence has spread over a great part of Asia, Africa, and America. It now forms the food of a greater portion of mankind than any other article, and is highly nutritious.

Q. What countries supply our markets ?

A. Our best rice comes from Carolina and Georgia, North America ; and Patna rice is the best East Indian kind which reaches this country ; but their relative values may be best seen from their market prices—Carolina 46s. and Patna 26s. per cwt.

Q. What quantity is usually brought to this country ?

A. About 3,500,000 cwts. are imported, but one-third of this is again exported.¹

SUGAR.—Q. How is sugar obtained ?

A. Sugar is most commonly obtained from the juice of the sugar-cane, though saccharine matter is one of the most common of vegetable secretions, and in France and Germany much sugar is made from beet-root ; the sugar-maple tree, which grows in the United States of America, also yields a considerable quantity from its juice or sap—a single tree yielding about six pounds.

Q. Which are the sugar-growing countries ?

A. Most of the sugar consumed in Great Britain comes from the West Indies and Mauritius, though it is also very extensively grown in the southern part of North America, most of the countries of South America, Hindoostan, and Birmah.

¹ Rice before it is separated from the husk is called *paddee*.

Q. What is the extent of the trade with this country ?

A. About 9,000,000 cwt., or 450,000 tons, of raw sugar, called Muscovado, is imported ; but a portion of this is exported again after having been refined—a business which is carried on chiefly at Bristol and Whitechapel, as refining of sugar is not allowed in the colonies.

Q. What is the object of refining sugar ?

A. The Muscovado, or common brown sugar of the shops, always contains impure matter—lime, gluten, and caramel ; and the object of the refiner is to remove these impurities and produce the hard white *loaf-sugar*.

TEA.—**Q.** Can you describe the Tea-plant ?

A. The Tea-plant of China grows to about five feet, the leaves of which, when dried and prepared, form the ordinary tea of the shops ; but there are many other kinds of tea used in the same way, viz. : Assam Tea, Paraguay Tea, or Maté, Coffee Tea, Labrador Tea, Chaat or Abyssinian Tea, &c., the use of an infused beverage being almost universal.

Q. How are the different kinds of Chinese teas produced ?

A. Different districts produce teas of different kinds ; but the plants are stripped of their leaves three times a year, the earliest leaves being the most delicate in flavour, and the older and later crops coarser and more bitter. The mode of drying too, and the time the leaves are left exposed after being plucked, determine their colour of green or black.

Q. Do you know what quantity is consumed in this country ?

A. About 75 million pounds ; but this quantity is nearly half of the annual produce of China. Russia and Holland are also tea-drinking countries, while Germany and France prefer coffee.¹

¹ The average price of tea at Canton is about ninepence a pound.

COFFEE.—Q. Describe the Coffee tree ?

A. It is an evergreen, a native of Abyssinia, rising to 15 or 20 feet, though in some cases not higher than 8 or 10 feet, and, coming to maturity in about three years, will continue to bear for twenty years. The coffee berry is the seed of its fruit.

Q. What countries supply our markets with coffee ?

A. The consumption of Great Britain is 60 million pounds annually, and is imported from Ceylon (*the cheapest*), the East Indies, Java, Jamaica, Brazil, and Mocha (*the best*). The Portuguese also procure large quantities from the eastern coast of Africa,—the entire consumption of coffee being estimated at 200 million pounds.

Q. What is Chicory ?

A. Chicory, or wild endive, is a common adulteration of coffee, and is now cultivated, chiefly for its root, in Surrey, Bedfordshire, and Yorkshire. The root is sliced, dried, and roasted, then ground and mixed with coffee, imparting a very bitter taste.

TOBACCO.—Q. What is tobacco.

A. Tobacco is the leaf of a tree which sometimes grows to the height of six or seven feet. It is a native of America, but is successfully reared in all the four quarters of the world between 15 and 50 degrees of latitude, and supplies an article, which, next to salt, is the most extensively consumed by man.¹

Q. What countries import tobacco into Great Britain ?

A. The largest importers are the United States of America, the West Indies, the Philippine Islands, Turkey, and Brazil.

Q. What is the amount consumed in this country ?

A. 60,000,000 lb. annually are consumed in vari-

¹ There are various narcotics used in different countries :—the coca leaf in Peru ; opium, hemp, and betel-nut among the eastern nations ; dried toadstool in Siberia ; the pepper plant among the South Sea Islanders ; and the thorn-apples among the natives of the Andes, &c.

ous ways—snuffing, smoking, and chewing—which, though an enormous quantity, is greatly exceeded by other European countries, especially Germany and Belgium.

WINE.—Q. What is the character of the common wine or grape-vine?

A. The grape-vine is a creeping plant, native to several countries in the East, and cultivated within 50° north and south latitudes. Its varieties and modes of culture are exceedingly various: in the south of France it is propped and supported, while in parts of Spain it is allowed to trail on the ground; and the same vine by different training and in different soils produces a quite different wine.

Q. Give one or two illustrations of it?

A. The same grape which makes Hock when grown on the Rhine, when grown near Lisbon yields Bucellas; nor does Cape Hock resemble Rhenish Hock. Great and Little Constantia also, of the Cape, produce wines totally different,—the one red, the other white.

Q. Name a few of the principal wines?

A. Port from Oporto; Sherry from Xeres in Spain; Champagne from Champagne; Burgundy from Langres; Claret from the Gironde in France; Hock from Rhine Prussia; Tokay from the valley of the Theiss in Hungary; Madeira and Malmsey from Funchal, Madeira; Constantia and many others from Cape Colony, are the most prized.

Q. What amount of wine is imported to this country?

A. About 6 million gallons annually is imported, but the total consumption of wine and spirits reaches the enormous quantity of 30 million gallons, and yields one-fifth of the revenue of the country from its duty.

FRUITS.—Q. Mention some of the foreign fruits imported?

A. France sends preserved fruits—plums, cher-

ries, apricots, greengages; Spain—melons, grapes, oranges,¹ nuts (Barcelona), and raisins (Malaga and Valentia); Portugal and China—oranges, the latter fruits preserved; currants are brought from the Ionian Islands, (Zante, Patras, Cephalonia); figs from Smyrna; and dates from Tafilat in Morocco, and Arabia.

SPICES.—Q. Where are spices obtained from?

A. The Spice Islands, West Indies, and Hindoostan, spices being produced in very hot countries only. Pepper is obtained from Java, Sunda, and Timor, and Cayenne from Cayenne, in South America; ginger and allspice from the West Indies, Mexico, and Cochin China; mace, nutmegs, cloves, &c. from the Spice Islands; curry powder from India; and cinnamon from Peru and Hindoostan.

DRUGS.—Q. Enumerate a few of the principal drugs obtained from foreign countries?

A. Castor oil and senna are imported from India and Columbia; rhubarb from Asiatic Turkey, Cochin China, &c.; jalap and Peruvian bark from Peru; sarsaparilla, balsam, and jalap from Central America, and various parts of South America; and aloes from the east coast of Africa.

Q. What oils form important articles of trade?

A. In 1859 the manufacture of linseed oil alone was stated to be 55,000 tons, and of cocoa-nut oil there was imported 9,600 tons. Besides these, great quantities of fish oils and palm oil find a ready market in this country.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

WOOL.—Q. What is the nature and extent of the wool trade?

A. The manufacture of woollen cloth was intro-

¹ St. Michael's oranges come from the island of that name (one of the Azores) belonging to Portugal; and the bitter Seville orange from the town of that name in Spain.

duced from Flanders in the reign of Edward I, and has gradually increased till at the present time nearly 134,000,000 lb. of wool imported and 120,000,000 lb. produced in Great Britain, are annually manufactured into cloth, flannel, carpets, worsted goods, &c. to the value of £22,000,000.

Q. Where are these chiefly manufactured?

A. Cloth is manufactured in the West Riding of Yorkshire, in Wiltshire, Somersetshire, and Gloucestershire; stockings and other worsted goods at Leicester, Nottingham, and Derby; carpets at Kidderminster and Axminster; blankets at Witney (Oxon), Leeds, and Huddersfield; flannels at Rochdale, Halifax, and Dolgelly; and mixed goods of worsted and silk (bombazines and poplins) at Norwich.

Q. What countries supply our markets with wool?

A. Those parts of England which supply great quantities of wool are the East Riding of Yorkshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent, Sussex, Wiltshire, Devonshire; and much is also furnished from Wales and Scotland. Foreign wool used to be brought chiefly from Spain (Merino), but is now obtained in greater quantities from Saxony, and other parts of Germany, and from Australia.

Q. Enumerate some of the different kinds of wool, their uses, and comparative value.

A. Short or fine wool is the fleece of the sheep of the colder districts, those of the warmer districts being furnished with what is called long wool: the former is worked into broad cloth, the latter into worsted goods. The kinds which yield the finest wool in Great Britain are the Cheviots and the Shetlands; and of foreign produce the Merinos of Spain and Germany.

SILK.—Q. How is silk produced?

A. What is called raw silk is the produce of a little worm which feeds on the leaves of the mulberry tree, and spins itself a web called a cocoon, of about

300 yards in length when wound off, and weighing three grains and a quarter.

Q. What countries rear the silkworm ?

A. France, Austria, Italy, India, China, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt ; these countries being most favourable to the growth of the tree on which the caterpillar feeds.

Q. What is the extent of the trade of Great Britain in silk ?

A. It is said to employ 200,000 persons (the half of them in Cheshire), and the value of the manufacture is estimated at £7,000,000 annually ; and if 10,000,000 lb. be the quantity consumed in this country, it will require not less than 36,000 millions of insects to produce it.

Q. Where is the manufacture of silk carried on in England ?

A. In Spitalfields (London), Macclesfield, Manchester, and Coventry.

HIDES.—Q. What countries export the hides of animals in great quantities ?

A. Russia, Mexico, Chili, La-Plata, Brazil, and Columbia, export the hides of the numerous animals which swarm on their great plains, and which are not unfrequently slaughtered for the sake of their skins. Mogadore, too, exports morocco leather, the prepared skin of a goat ; and Cordova, in Spain, and Tokat, in Turkey, manufacture leather.

Q. What number of persons are employed in this country in the trade ?

A. Tanners, curriers, shoemakers, glovers, saddlers, and others engaged in the leather trade, are computed at 300,000 persons ; the value of the leather at £6,000,000 ; and the manufactures at three times the same amount.

Q. Where is the trade carried on ?

A. Tanning at Bermondsey, Kettering, and Northampton ; shoemaking at Stafford and Northampton ; and gloving at Worcester.

MANUFACTURES.

GLASS.—Q. Where are the most extensive manufactures of glass ?

A. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Shields, Stourbridge, St. Helen's, Bristol, Birmingham, Warrington, Glasgow, and Leith.

Q. What are the different kinds of glass ?

A. There are several kinds of glass, all formed of sea sand and an alkali (pearlash chiefly), with metallic oxides ; and the varied proportions in which these are used produces the different kinds :—flint glass or crystal, the most brilliant ; crown glass or window glass, both harder and lighter than flint glass ; broad glass, a common kind of window glass ; bottle-glass, commoner still, and formed of sand and lime only ; and plate glass, very costly both from the nature of the material (the purest sand, soda, manganese, and oxide of cobalt) and the labour and care necessary in the manufacture of it.

Q. Can you give any statistics of the trade ?

A. The entire manufacture is about 500,000 tons, bottle-glass and crown glass being in the greatest proportion ; and the value of the exports about £600,000, chiefly to America and India.

CHINA.—Q. Where is the manufacture of pottery carried on ?

A. Chiefly in the Staffordshire Potteries (Burslem, Lane End, Stoke, and Newcastle), and Worcester, employing 100,000 persons. China or porcelain is only a fine kind of pottery, and all the great varieties of qualities and colour result from the proportions in which China clay, Dorset clay, Devonshire clay, flint, Cornish granite, and metallic oxides, are made use of ; ground flint and felspar imparting the peculiar fineness and whiteness to china.

Q. What countries are our greatest purchasers of goods of this kind ?

A. The United States, South America, the North of Europe, Italy, and the Levant mainly ; but also almost all parts of the globe in less quantities : the exports being of nearly £1,300,000 in value, and the home consumption about the same.

JEWELLERY.—Q. Where are articles of jewellery manufactured ?

A. Jewellery is chiefly manufactured at Birmingham and London ; but Paris exports to this country jewellery and watches to a very considerable amount.

Q. Foreign watches do not all come from Paris ?

A. No. Geneva and other parts of Switzerland are employed in this trade. The home manufacture of watches is carried on at Clerkenwell (London) and at Coventry.¹

IRON GOODS.—Q. Enumerate a few of the manufactures in iron.

A. Cutlery, tools, and machinery are made chiefly at Sheffield and Birmingham ; locks, pots, kettles, pans, &c., at Birmingham, Wolverhampton and neighbourhood ; nails, at Dudley and neighbourhood ; needles and pins, at Redditch, Alcester, Gloucester, and Birmingham.

Q. Are many people employed in this branch of trade ?

A. In the manufacture of such goods not fewer than 300,000 persons are employed, and the value of the manufactures is reckoned at £20,000,000. (See *Iron*.)

Q. Give a few towns distinguished by their manufactures which we have not yet enumerated ?

A. Ship-building is chiefly carried on at London, Newcastle, Sunderland, Hull, Liverpool, and Yar-

¹ The manufacture of ribbons also employs some thousands at Coventry.

mouth ; the making of japanned goods at Birmingham, Bilston, and Wolverhampton ; locks and keys, bridles and spurs, at Walsall and its neighbourhood ; soap and candles, chiefly in London and Bristol ; lace, at Nottingham and Leicester ; hats, at Oldham, London, and the neighbourhood of Bristol ; and straw-plait at Dunstable and Luton.

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